

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

Bi Activists Busy in 1991

by Robyn Ochs

This article first appeared in the January 5-12 issue of Gay Community News, and is reprinted here with permission of the author.

Both in the United States and abroad — in Great Britain, The Netherlands, and Germany — the bisexual movement has been growing by leaps and bounds. 1991 in particular has been a "banner year" for the bisexual movement.

Bis Got Organized, locally, nationally and internationally. Between January and December, the International Directory of Bisexual Groups, published by the East Coast Bisexual Network, increased its listings of bisexual and lesbian/

gay/bisexual groups from 199 to 365. The directory currently includes groups in 32 states and Washington D.C., and in eight other countries as well. Boston-area happenings have included a "BiFest," lesbian/gay/bisexual dialogues, a weekly women's rap group, a monthly brunch, and a monthly "bi-space." The Boston bi community continues to have an office in the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Community Center on Newbury Street.

In July of 1991, the national bi movement coalesced as bi activists from around the country met for two

days in Seattle to develop a national organization, BiNet USA.

The 1st International Bisexual Conference was held October 4-5 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, bringing together for the first time activists and academics from a number of European countries, the U.S. and Canada.

"Community" Was Redefined. Many of the "firsts" for the bisexual community have taken place within the context of the larger queer community. Important dialogues have begun between bisexuals, lesbians and gay men, as more bisexuals are speaking out and becoming increasingly visible within our community. An example of this took place at the NGLTF's Creating Change conference in November, where persistent bisexual activists worked with the conference organizers and with NGLTF board members to establish a dialogue and a presence at the conference. Various lesbian/bisexual dialogues have also taken place this year in Boston, Seattle, Washington, D.C., Boulder, San Francisco and Chicago.

The increased visibility of bisexuals is evident in the increasing number of organizations changing their names and/or statements of purpose to include bisexuals. In



Why We Need Support

by [REDACTED]

I love support groups. I love talking about myself and listening to others intimately. I love emotions, and the emotional facet of politics. I love being known, and being encouraged to express myself deeply.

Organizing a bisexual women's support group this past fall took a lot of effort — and is producing a welcome, abundant harvest. I am hungry for many such opportunities within my community — times when I learn of others' life stories and so gain a common history and context in which to understand myself. I feel listened to.

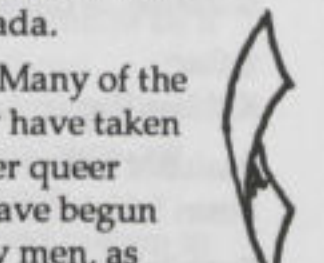
Self knowledge is our right, but we've mostly been denied it. In order to heal, support

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BBWN News

Honor Roll

◆
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Laura P.
Laura S.
Susan R.
Gail Z.
Ginny S.
Sue W.
Stephanie B.
Cathleen F.
Shawn G.
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Susan S.
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Sharon G.
Rebecca K.
Annie S.
Robyn O.
Liz H.
Ann G.

Special thanks to
Woody G.

BiWomen is published
bi-monthly, of course.

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Kathleen Hepburn
Laura Sachs
Susan Rooney
Stephanie Berger

And now, an UPDATE from our much-appreciated Volunteer Coordinator, Stephanie . . .

Volunteers Still Needed!

Many thanks to those who responded to our call in the last issue of BiWomen for volunteers – but there's still a need for more.

Thanks to [redacted] for taking on publicity – but she would appreciate a partner to help her. Cathleen F. and Ginny S. will be volunteering at the office – and they, also, would like two more women to help them.



A Merchandise Maven is still needed. We get a lot of requests for buttons and T-shirts. You would come to the bi office at the Center for Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gay Men, 338 Newbury Street, Boston, (next to the Auditorium/Hynes Convention Center T stop on the Green line). You would simply fill those requests and make sure our supplies stay stocked. It's a minimal time commitment.

Thanks to Laura P., who will be doing phone calling for BBWN.



Women are still needed to co-facilitate BBWN introductory meetings. Two and a half hours every other month at the Women's Center in Cambridge. We will train.

If you are interested in helping the Network, call (617) BIS-MOVE, leave a message for Stephanie B., and please specify which job you are interested in.

THANKS AGAIN !!!

Thanks, Joyce, for your contribution last issue. Sorry your name got dropped accidentally. . . ♥

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

Social Events Update

BOSTON — In November a BBWN Potluck Dinner Special Coordinating Committee meeting was held. Out of the many topics discussed, it seems there has been concern regarding the lack of women-only social events since the advent of Biversity Boston. While mixed-gender events in the Bi community are welcomed and encouraged, there is still a need for women-only space.

The stage was then set for the first Social Events Planning Committee meeting to take place . . . which it did on January 15th. Claire Morton, Laura Perez, Susan Rooney, Laura Sachs and Anna Watson met, and the results of that brainstorming session were as follows:

Potential events: Miniature golf, bowling, whale watching, kite flying, apple picking, biking, mountain climbing, hiking, hot tubbing (especially after all that exercise – ouch!); visiting the Aquarium, Museum of Science, Museum of Fine Arts, Institute of Contemporary Art; movie viewing at home and in theaters, dancing, slumber partying, cultural events, lesbian/bi women intramural sports (e.g., volleyball, softball, etc.), day/overnight trips to Provincetown, Esplanade concerts, Topsfield Fair, craft shows, etc.



As you can see, we have lots of ideas, but we could use more, and more women to make them happen. We have set up two definite dates for dancing at On Broadway: Saturday, February 22, at 9:00pm, and Friday, March 27, Two-Stepping, with a lesson at 8:00pm.

On Broadway is a smoke- and alcohol-free club on Broadway (of course) near Powderhouse Square in Somerville, Mass. Wear your Bi Pride or VisiBility buttons so we know who we are! (Both buttons are available at the East Coast Bisexual Network office, 338 Newbury Street, Suite 202, Boston – telephone (617) 247-6683.)

The second meeting of the Social Events Planning Committee, to which you are ALL invited, will take place after the BBWN Potluck Brunch, Saturday, March 14th at 12:00 noon at Susan R.'s home near Porter Square, Cambridge. For info or directions, call (617) 247-6683 and leave a message for Susan or Laura. Come on down!

Love to all,
Susan Rooney and Laura Sachs
XXOO



Letters

Dear BiWomen,

I wrote this letter way back in October after Bob, a member of our Bisexual community, suddenly died. I was very moved by who he was and the essence of him still lives on in my heart. Originally, I wrote this letter for myself to say good-bye to Bob but now I would like to share it with the Bi community in the Newsletter.



Remember our address:

BiWomen

BBWN

338 Newbury Street, 202

Boston, MA 02115



Bob Clemence

A Need To Say Good-bye

During Bi Space last night, I learned that a member of our bisexual community has recently died. I need a way to say good-bye to this man. I have no connection to his family, his work, his closest friends or any other of the many active involvements he had. I didn't know an incredible amount about him but I knew enough that I wanted to know more. There wasn't time, he died about six months after I met him. In the short time that I knew Bob, I've felt moved by who he was and by the things that he shared within the community. I feel the loss of Bob and the loss of not having the opportunity to grieve with others who loved him.

I met Bob at my first Bi Space meeting. I was struck by how articulate he was. His loud and clear voice bonded with a strong and positive sense of identity that permeated through me. It had recently hit me that I was Bi and there was no way it was going to go away. I wasn't sure what I was going to do with it or how I was going to live my life. Bob was comforting. He reveled in his bisexuality as if it was a gift. He talked of being married for several decades and

coming out to his children, when usually it is the other way around. He talked about doing the things he liked to do without hiding who he was. He allowed others to think he was strange if that is what they needed to feel. He looked and sounded like he was living his life and not wasting one second.

I learned from Bob that being proud of myself as a Bi is important if I want to live all the way alive versus half-way dead. If I spend my days dodging who I am, if I spend my life worrying about those who will be freaked out about my lifestyle because they can't understand it, then I will be living a half-way dead existence.

I learned balance from Bob. He said he neither wears a label on his forehead that says he's Bi nor does he hide the fact either. He said he lives his life and if someone asks or if it is relevant to mention, then he talks about it. Bob gave himself the permission to just be.

I listened to this man when he talked. He did like to talk and he was the first one to admit it. He also listened to me. Bob came to my birthday party and a few days later in the mail came a whale magnet that said Cape Cod (he lived on and loved the Cape) and a letter thanking me for inviting him to my party. That's the sort of guy he was.

This thing about needing to say good-bye to Bob is important. I met Bob at Bi Space, a group where bisexual issues are discussed. There is diversity in this group. Some of us are coming out, are out, are thinking of coming out or any stage in-between or around that. It's not just a meeting, we obviously share the struggles and sort the ideas about how we deal with our bisexuality. For some it is easy, for some of us it is hard. You see, we share a lot in those meetings and I was able to easily share with Bob more about myself as a Bisexual than my family will ever know or accept without questioning. I think this is a very good reason to say good-bye.

Dear Bob,

Your loss is felt and your presence is missed. Thank-you for everything that you have shared, because in your sharing, you have given much more than you realized. Thank-you, Bob.

Love, JonaKarina



Letters continue on next page



DEADLINE for the April / May issue:

Friday, March 13, 1992

All submissions in writing, please, and include a name and phone number if possible. If you do not want your name published, please tell us! Otherwise we will assume that you do not mind being listed as a contributor. You may contribute anonymously, or just use your first name if you wish. Send articles, calendar entries, letters, art, news and views to:

BiWomen, BBWN
338 Newbury Street, 202
Boston, MA 02115

To Michelle H.:

Hang in there!
Love from your
sister newsletter
stuffers!



Upcoming Conferences

The 10th U.K. National Bisexual Conference will be held in Norwich, England, on 24-26 July 1992 and is being organized by BIFROST. Free or reduced registration will be available to any overseas visitors who register in advance. Write to BIFROST P.O. Box 117, Norwich, NR1 1254, England, for a registration form.

Other conferences planned:

October 1992
(probably) – Second International Bi Conference, London

April 24-25 weekend, 1993 – Third International Bi Conference, Washington, D.C.

June 1994 – Fourth International Bi Conference, New York (to coincide with Gay Games)

– from BIFROST, the National (U.K.) Newsletter for Bisexuals



Run, Laura, Run:

Two BBWN members have been elected to the Board of Directors of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau. Laura Perez replaces Robyn Ochs as vice president, and Laura Sachs has been elected secretary. **Congratulations!**

Letters, from preceding page

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you or your readers have heard the latest theory about bisexual identity: that bisexual women who consciously choose to be sexual with both women and men are the only women who are really heterosexual. This excludes, of course, those women who call themselves bisexual as part of a transition stage preliminary to calling themselves lesbian, and it excludes those women who call themselves bisexual because they are afraid of their lesbianism.

I read this idea for the first time in the recently released issue of the Canadian women's studies journal, *Resources for Feminist Research*, RFR (vol. 19, #3/4, Sept/Dec 1990. RFR is a quasi-academic journal. This issue is a special issue called "Confronting Heterosexuality," and it includes a short article in a section called "Comments/Observations" that is titled "Thinking About Bisexuality" [reprinted here], by Marilyn Murphy.

There is so much more in this short article, such as the assertion that bisexuals are not penalized in straight society (rather, they are thought sexy), or the assertion that "bisexuality cannot logically be called a sexual/affective preference." There is the assumption that no bisexual woman is interested in making a long-term commitment to another woman — but she will do this with a man. I lack words to describe the logic in the article. The best I can come up with is mind-boggling.

In and of itself, I think, the article is bad enough. But especially in the context of the rest of the issue, I don't think it is an understatement to say it is dangerously inflammatory. There are other articles in the issue well worth reading. But this is the only article in the entire issue to address bisexuality, and its inclusion in the "Comment" section suggests that the subject is a throw-away one not worth a more academic treatment.

I am writing to you out of a sense of incredulity and helplessness. My first impulse upon reading the article was to fire off a letter to the editors, but for a number of reasons, I don't feel I personally can do this. But I want to do something constructive about my rage and dismay over this article. At the moment, the best I can think of is to publicize this.

The author of the article, Marilyn Murphy, recently published a book that was reviewed in the latest issue of *off our backs*. According to the review, she says in the book that lesbians who go back to men are the only true heterosexuals. Which is it I wonder: just former lesbians who now embrace men only, or just women who embrace both women and men? I

find the whole thing scary, because it looks like the kind of stupid idea that will catch on.

Sincerely,

Name withheld upon request

[Thank you for your letter. The article you refer to is included here in its entirety. We found it difficult to pull excerpts without losing the impact of the article. It certainly is scary. —Eds.]

Thinking About Bisexuality

by Marilyn Murphy, St. Augustine, FL

When I think, talk, write about women who are not lesbians, I try to use the terms "non-lesbian," "pre-lesbian," "women who live heterosexual lives." I try to avoid saying "heterosexual woman," this is not a bit of lesbian cleverness on my part. Instead, it is an attempt at clear thinking, an example of words expressing real life as I experience it. I think we err when we label a woman "heterosexual," in a world where all women are presumed, expected, and mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually and economically coerced into living heterosexual lives, where compulsory heterosexuality is the principal organizing institution of personal life, where the heterosexual model of woman serving man is the model for all public relationships between women and men, and where living outside of the institution of heterosexuality is either unthinkable or, if thought of at all, is taught to be disgusting, sinful, sick and no fun at all. If acted upon it is punished by social ostracism and loss of the civil rights and legal protections afforded citizens of the nation.

Given this enormous pressure on women to live heterosexual lives, we cannot say "most women are heterosexual," and mean anything comparable to saying "some women are lesbians." In the first place, heterosexuality is not a sexual preference for most women. They do not know there is an agreeable alternative to men as love objects, sex partners, life companions. They do not prefer and/or choose men, except as an alternative to those known and abhorred states called spinster and old maid.

Neither is heterosexual an aspect of the psychosocial identity of most women who live heterosexual lives. When asked to give words which define who they are, most women do not include heterosexual, for the same reason that most white people would not include white in their self-definition. Of course, if the question was asked by a woman known to be a lesbian, they would be more likely to say "heterosexual."

"Lesbian," on the other hand, is both a conscious sexual and affectional preference and an important component of the psychosocial identity of women who love other women. Les-

Letters continue on next page

Directory of Bi Groups Grows Larger

The number of listings in the International Directory of Bisexual Groups has topped 300, a 50% increase in listings from just one year ago. The new and expanded 8th edition of the directory will be released on April 1, 1992. BBWN members are entitled to a \$1 discount (membership has its privileges...). To order your copy, send \$4 to ECBN (that's the East Coast Bisexual Network), 338 Newbury St. Suite 202, Boston, MA 02115. If ordering before April, please specify whether you want the current edition (still a bargain at any price!) or the April 1 edition.

Children's Quarterly

Skipping Stones, a multi-cultural children's quarterly, invites children of indigenous societies everywhere to send poems, songs, recipes, riddles, drawings, photographs and more for their special issue on women of many ages and their special issue celebrating the cultural heritage of Native societies in the Americas. Submissions are welcome in all languages, with English translation if possible. **Subscriptions** are \$15/year for individuals and \$20/year for institutions, and 50% for low income and Third World schools and libraries. P.O. Box 3939, Eugene, OR 97403; (503) 342-4956.

Letters, from preceding page

biens know they can marry and live unhappily ever after as so many women do. Instead, we choose to live outside compulsory heterosexuality because the desire to act upon our preference for women as love objects, sex partners and life companions is stronger than the fear of the negative social consequences of our actions.

Because of the negative social stigma attached to lesbianism, however, lesbians usually experience a time of internal struggle in order to accept our lesbian self and our lesbian group membership. The lesbian identity forged from this struggle is so important that it ranks in the top two or three defining characteristics: I am a Black lesbian; I am a lesbian mother; I am a disabled lesbian, and so forth. Hence our use of the terms lesbian, and non-lesbian, is logical.

However, what are we to think when women say they are "bisexual?" We must admit that when a woman says she is "bisexual" most lesbians do not believe her. We think she is pre-lesbian, in transition, going through a bisexual phase on her journey to lesbianism. We think she is protecting herself from her lesbian fears. Most of us feel more or less protective of women we think are in this bisexual place, especially when we know they are not seeing men. All lesbians know women who used to be "bisexual," including, for some, themselves.

Our disbelief in bisexuality works to women's advantage, regardless of how personally annoying it is to them. Our disbelief ensures their inclusion in the lesbian subculture.

Sometimes, however, this disbelief takes a harsher expression, with lesbians calling some women's bisexuality a cop-out, a way of profiting from their inclusion in the camaraderie and richness of the lesbian community, in addition to the joys of women-loving, without accepting the individual and societal penalties that "real" lesbians suffer.

I do not accept the premise that bisexual women are penalized in straight society. We know that men find the idea of lesbian sex a turn-on, and find the bisexual women who do it sexy! We also know that female bisexuality is considered a phase there too. We also expect that women like these will go back to men permanently when it is advantageous to do so, and to take their "sexy lesbian stories" with them.

These responses to bisexual women also come from the real life experiences of lesbians, from the lesbian inability to believe that any woman could feel sexually and emotionally attracted to women and men with equal intensity.

In my opinion, bisexuality cannot logically be called a sexual/affectional preference. Some women who call themselves "bisexual" insist that the gender of their lovers is irrelevant to them, that they do not choose lovers on the basis of gender. Some even criticize lesbians who choose to avoid relationships, or who question the choices of women who continue to relate intimately, with men. They say we are intolerant or bigoted for considering the gender of our partners important, as if compulsory lesbianism were the organizing societal institution of personal life. Their attitude trivializes and erases the real oppression experienced by lesbians for their loving women.

Some women who call themselves "bisexual" do say the gender of their lovers is important, though they say they do not prefer one sex over the other. They say they are attracted to women for the similarities and to men for the differences from themselves. Some say physical differences of women and men as sexual partners make their sexual lives more exciting. Some find the differing ways women and men relate to them personally add something extra to their lives.

I think that when a woman who calls herself "bisexual" goes to the movies and then to bed with a man for whom she feels lust and affection, a man whose company she enjoys, whose attention she hopes to encourage, with whom she is sharing life stories, dreams and aspirations, she is living a conscious heterosexual life. She may call herself "bisexual," but she is doing what she was socialized to do. Like most women in the world, she is giving love, attention, respect, companionship and service to a person who profits from the personal and institutional oppression of women, including herself. The fact that she may expect or demand respect and reciprocity from the man, and may receive it, does not alter the material reality of the heterosexual "normality" of her situation.

While this woman is consciously living a heterosexual life and calling herself "bisexual," she enjoys the privileges which accrue to those who conform to the sexual standards of their society. In this instance, the woman, at the very least, enjoys the freedom to hold hands, snuggle against, even kiss, her male partner while in line outside the movie theater, without the risk of job loss, ridicule or physical injury.

In addition, women who consciously relate to men know they may become emotionally engaged with a man deeply enough to make a long-term commitment to him. They live the possibility of becoming half of a "legitimate" couple, of being able to discuss his foibles with his mother, of taking him to work-related social events without risk of punishment or sanctions.

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Audre Lorde, State Poet

New York has selected a Black lesbian feminist warrior poet mother – whose writings include "A Sewerplant Grows in Harlem" – as its official State Poet.

Audre Lorde said she accepted the two-year honor on behalf of "all the poets of the oppressed, disenfranchised and silenced peoples within this state."

— reported in off our backs, January 1992

1991, from page 1

addition to the enormous number of university groups adding the "b-word," this past July the board of directors of the Boston Center for Lesbians and Gay Men, Inc., voted to change its operating name to the Boston Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community Center. Similarly, in Edinburgh, the Lesbian/Gay Centre has become the Scottish Centre for Gay Men, Lesbians and Bisexuals. In San Francisco, *Bay Times*, the "Lesbian and Gay Community" newspaper, officially became the "Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community" newspaper. The Northeast Lesbian and Gay Student Association has, after two years of internal discussion, changed its name to add the "b-word." Other Boston area groups changing their names or their mission statements include the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band, Inc., The Cambridge Lavender Alliance, Dignity Boston, and New England Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Psychologists.

Needless to say, some of these changes have been fraught with controversy. Most notable perhaps is the case of Northampton, Mass., where "bisexual" was added to the name of the march in 1989, removed in 1990, and in 1991 resulted in the formation of two march organizing committees, one with and the other without "bisexual" in its title, both of which marched in the parade and attended the rally. A series of community meetings have taken place since the march, and the issue of the exclusion/inclusion of bisexual people is still a major source of tension in this area.

Bis Entered Academia. I will take the liberty when discussing academia of switching to the academic calendar. The 1990-91 academic year

brought us the first two courses (ever, anywhere) on bisexuality. The first, at UC Berkeley taught by Susan Carlton, and the second at MIT, taught by yours truly.

1991 also marks the official establishment of the National Association for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Studies. The title and by-laws of this organization were voted on at the 5th Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference in New Jersey which had a record two panels, a symposium on bisexuality, and a bisexual caucus within its program.

Bis Got Published. Alyson Press began the new year by publishing *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexuals Speak Out*, edited by Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu. Activists from the Bay Area Bisexual Network in San Francisco began 1991 with the publication of the first bisexual magazine, entitled *Anything That Moves: Beyond the Myths of Bisexuality*. *Anything That Moves* has published and widely distributed three issues in 1991.

And Next Year? More "firsts" are already underway for 1992. Seal Press will be publishing an anthology on bisexuality and feminism. The third course (ever, anywhere) on bisexuality will happen at Tufts University. Also, a conference for multicultural bisexual organizers is scheduled for February in Washington D.C.

Lastly, this list would not be complete without adding a very important first: in 1991 *Gay Community News* decided that the bisexual movement was important enough to be included in its special year-in-review issue. ▽



Rosanne Beaurivage
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March 2

♥
Happy one-year
anniversary
Laura and Susan!
♥

Support, from page 1

structures must be consciously created. We can gather expressly for the purpose of educating ourselves in a safe environment.

Within such a context, I want to talk specifically about bisexuality, not about current events or the weather or my surface opinions in defense of an issue that doesn't really interest me. I want to talk about the lifelong experiences that have shaped how I've come to see myself, not just a one time coming-out story. I want to unfold my understanding of the entire, complex, bisexual experience, so that I not only live the life that is mine everyday, but feel self confident and proud about my reality.

I admit to being disappointed in the nature of discussion-oriented rap groups that operate on a more intellectual level and don't reveal much about people's personal fears or successes. I find it very easy to identify my need and desire for emotional openness, although I won't claim to have a continuous blissful state of mental well being. The experience, though, of telling one's personal and total truth is precious to me. It is when I feel the strongest and most hopeful, and find my identity and struggle for justice most meaningful, profound, and worthwhile.

For the bisexual women's community I believe this support is an intrinsic need. In order to experience celebration among peers, we must reveal ourselves deeply. I do not know how I would be able to even believe in my own identity without a community. But in order to be truly proud and to thrive, I and others need to delve into our experiences in the face of societally imposed invisibility and hear and affirm one another. Community means feeling connected and less afraid among one another, and understood on a level sympathetic to one's hurts and one's outlook. Therefore I think true community and support have a symbiotic relationship.

I want to know the names of people's lovers and how they met and what it is they love about them. I want to know how other people survive being runaways from parents who rejected their sexuality. I want to know how people define healthy relationships, and to unlearn the

messages that only thin white women resembling fashion models deserve to be loved, or that promiscuity is the best way to get one's needs met. I want to develop a self worth about my sexual orientation that will carry over into the ways I let dates, employers, and acquaintances treat me. And I want to always be able to find this forum among my bisexual sisters.

I hope women can identify and feel proud of their desire for support. I value this aspect of our community. Support groups are a beautiful unit in which to experience this. I hope support can be thorough, visible and freely available for us all. I hope it will be considered essential political work. I hope that our circles of protection can link to form an unbreakable community which nourishes all its members and makes us strong and effective in the world, so that we create a world in which our stories are honored. And I hope to see all of us there, taking care of ourselves and one another, because we are that important. Our ability to feel is priceless — not to mention an undervalued tool for revolution. ▼

Letters, from page 5

On the other hand, I think that when a woman who calls herself "bisexual" goes to the movies and then to bed with a woman for whom she feels lust and affection, a woman whose company she enjoys, whose attention she hopes to encourage, with whom she is sharing life stories, dreams and aspirations, she is not living a lesbian life, nor does she have a lesbian consciousness of her experience. The experience of her chosen heterosexual yesterday and the possibility of a chosen heterosexual tomorrow keeps her always relating to lesbians and to lesbianism as a heterosexual woman who sometimes relates to or has sex with women.

Women who call themselves "bisexual" and actively relate to women and men certainly have the right to live as they please. However, they do not have the right to expect lesbians to accept them as "one of us," or to approve or applaud their choice of men as partners, even now and then. After all, there is nothing new, original or avant garde about relating to men; and the refusal of lesbians to do so is the basis for our oppression.

All of the above leaves us with a logical paradox. Women who call themselves "bisexual," not because they are in transition or are afraid of their lesbianism, but because they choose to relate sexually to both women and men, are the only women who are really heterosexual. They are the only women who choose to relate to men after having known and experienced a non-compulsory alternative. ●

Telephone (617) 498-9923

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Overground Railroad

From 1840 to 1865, thousands of slaves in the U.S. were helped to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Now, 130 years later, a group of Quakers are organizing the Overground Railroad to help women retain the freedom to choose abortion.

With the appointment of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, the stage is set for a re-ruling on *Roe vs. Wade*, which we are likely going to lose. If *Roe* is overturned, the control of abortion restrictions will pass back to the states. By organizing now, the Railroad will have a network in place, should it be needed, to provide transportation, housing and comfort to those who need to travel and find safe, legal abortions.

What YOU can do:

- Volunteer to provide transportation
- volunteer to house a woman who may be in your area overnight
- volunteer to escort a woman to a clinic
- contribute money to help cover transportation expenses
- ask your friends to volunteer or contribute, too

By doing this NOW, you can help put the railroad in place. Hopefully, it will never be needed, but if it is, we want to be ready. Contact: **The Railroad**, P.O. Box 79, Shippack, PA 19474; call (215) 495-5215 or (800) 726-1468.

—from *Radia*, New Haven's (Conn.) Feminist Calendar and Newsletter.



Bis Create Change at Creating Change

by Loraine Hutchins

The 1991 bi presence at the annual national activist conference, "Creating Change," sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce (NGLTF), was a huge success. We have much further to go, but at least (at last!) many gay activists now know for sure that "we're bi, we're queer, we're here and we aren't going anywhere."

Organizing for a bi presence at this conference started the moment the 1990 conference ended last November. As I said in my speech at the Sexual Liberation / Sexual Diversity panel: "We've come a long way because we have an official bi caucus listed in the program this year, an official bi booth in the exhibit area; bi activists from around the country who contributed to the conceptualizing and planning of this conference and are leading and participating in more workshops than ever before; and last, but not least, more use of the 'B' word in the Taskforce's own language." (Bis were included on this panel along with other "sexual minorities" within the gay movement — leather people and transsexuals.) Our presence was directly due to an effort coordinated by Lani Kaahumanu, Robyn Ochs, myself and others that lasted from the time the last conference ended until this one began. Lani wrote a letter expressing her concerns for more bi visibility on all levels in early '91 and this was followed up in April '91 by a letter signed by a dozen bi activists expressing the same. We suggested panelists for a variety of workshops, not just ones on bisexuality, and urged that bi activists be recognized and involved in all stages and aspects of the conference.

To an extent this happened very successfully. Kristen Stuenkel ended up chairing the Child Care Committee; Robyn Ochs, Elias Farajaje Jones, Billy Jones, and I ended up leading workshops; bi groups from San Francisco, Boston, Philadelphia and D.C. participated in staffing and stocking the Bi Booth in the Exhibit Hall; there were TWO bi caucuses; the Biphobia workshop for gay activists ended up causing some great dialogue; and bis and bi-positive gays came out to us and others and vocally supported bi issues throughout the conference proceedings.

Though the *Washington Blade* barely mentioned our strong presence, other nearby gay papers like *Our Own* from Norfolk, VA featured the conference as their lead story, mentioning that "gay, lesbian and bisexual activists came from 42 states and the District of Columbia, including Idaho, Montana, South

Carolina, Iowa, Arizona and Kansas. Activists also came from England, Mexico, Nicaragua, Soviet Union and Puerto Rico." *The Baltimore Alternative* also characterized the movement as "the gay, lesbian and bisexual movement," and said, "the collective phrase of choice was 'lesbian, gay and bisexual' and bisexual activist Loraine Hutchins seemed somehow always at hand to make sure there wasn't any backsliding." Funny, I thought the phrase was only *rarely* and *tentatively* used, and I certainly wasn't at everyone's hand, nor do I want to be. It depends upon your perspective, I guess . . .

The first bi caucus meeting of course conflicted with every other caucus time and we knew we had members and allies going to other caucus meetings who couldn't be at ours. Nevertheless we brainstormed these ideas and set a time the next day for another meeting. We talked about: adding bi and transgender in the text of NGLTF literature; about adding biphobia education to all institutes sponsored by the Taskforce (diversity, people of color, campus); about offering in-service training on biphobia to gay activists; about including bis in hate crimes statistics; about asking/suggesting/demanding that plenary speakers be bi inclusive next year; about NGLTF acknowledging contributions of bis to the movement more; about next time NGLTF membership is surveyed adding *bi* and *undecided* as categories; about appointing a bi liaison to conference and workshop planning next time; about psychologically and politically tying the struggle to include bi to the (past?) struggle to include lesbians in the Taskforce's original name; about finding out if there are any bi-friendly Taskforce board members (more on this later); and about writing up something formal on all this to send to the board and to also focus more on what we value about and can offer NGLTF, as well as what critique we have of it.

The second caucus meeting focused on reports from members about bi-positive and biphobic incidents related to workshops they'd been attending and/or leading during the conference. People reported on individual instances where they'd come out bi in workshops also. In "Isms and Schisms" (within the movement) for instance, it was clear that some African-Americans and Latinos advocated more bi-inclusive language, as did some leatherfolk, transsexuals and students. (All these categories overlap of course but they tend to be where we see more bi support coming than from other categories.) Robyn Ochs, who'd been called to speak on the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Studies panel at the last minute (to replace a gay male scholar who couldn't make it) made the point that bis

Creating Change continues on page 15

To Whom it May Concern:

*BiWomen occasionally (when space permits) prints letters that our readers have sent to organizations, publications, individuals, etc., in the interest of correcting misinformation, making our voices heard, empowering ourselves and **Creating Change**.*

The following letter was sent to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force on November 17, 1991 (see related article on preceding page).



BUTTONS

Bisexual Pride

Visi Bi lity

Bisexual Queer



on sale at the Bi Office.

Send

\$1

plus a stamped, self-addressed envelope (or 50¢ postage and handling) to:

BBWN, c/o LGBCC
338 Newbury St., 202
Boston, MA 02115

Dear NGLTF,

I am sending you a membership check in the happy afterglow of this year's Creating Change Conference. It was an amazing event, and I always find myself revitalized after four happy days of socializing and strategizing with other queer activists from all parts.

I have one request to make of you: as a bisexual woman activist, I often feel invisible at NGLTF events and in NGLTF literature. While I am absolutely sure that this is in fact my community and that there are lots of other bi folk here, I often wonder if anyone else besides us knows we're here. I realize and appreciate that NGLTF has begun to take steps to recognize bi and transgender people — by opening up a dialogue, and by having a workshop on bisexuality for the past couple of years, and by including the "b-word" in some of its workshop titles. But I still feel remarkably invisible in the official literature and language of your organization, with the exception of the campus project and a few other subgroups which choose to use inclusive language (such as the people of color institute this year.)

I had a discussion with two lesbians last weekend at the conference about anti-gay discrimination, and discovered during the course of the conversation that neither of these women was aware that bisexuals are explicitly prohibited by the Department of Defense from serving in the military, or that we are prohibited (when

this prohibition exists against lesbians and gay men) from being foster parents. They both entered the conversation believing that only lesbians and gay men, and NOT BISEXUALS are discriminated against. Often, the language used by NGLTF serves to perpetuate this type of misinformation. I quote a typical example from Urvashi Vaid's 9 page history of NGLTF in this year's conference program (in this article the word bisexual is not ONCE mentioned): "The Military Freedom Initiative is a coalition of progressive groups working to overturn anti-gay and lesbian discriminatory policies in the US armed forces." The Department of Defense EXPLICITLY discriminates against bisexuals as well. When I read sentences like this I feel angry. Yes, I realize that all of these oppressions are connected, but I get so tired of lesbians and gay men who say that bisexuals are not discriminated against at all — that we just want to come to the party.

So here's my request: when you update your pamphlets, literature, etc., I would like to read in them that NGLTF is an organization by and for lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender people... and that it is committed to working to end discrimination against lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people. A change in your language would make a tremendous difference to me.

I want to make it very clear here that I am not in any way trying to distance myself from lesbians and gay men by asking to be recognized by NGLTF as an additional group. Rather, I do not call myself lesbian because I do not want to get caught in the crossfire of debate over whether lesbians are women-who-don't-ever-sleep-with-men, or whether a lesbian is a woman who is woman-centered. And I certainly can't call myself a gay man, although I would guess that if I did it would cause a lot less controversy than it would if I called myself a lesbian. In fact, I identify myself as an out feminist lesbian-identified bisexual activist woman.

One last story: a man purchased a bisexual pride button from me at Creating Change last year. He paid me for the button, smiled and thanked me, and put it in his pocket. As he was turning away I asked him "Aren't you going to put it on?" His response was "Here? No way."

At any rate, here's my membership check. I appreciate all of your essential and world-changing work, I'll get back to my own activism, and I'll see you all at NGLTF next November.

Yours in struggle and celebration,
Robyn Ochs





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Joyce Atkinson
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Bisexual Women in Comics

by
Anna
Watson



gay male literature where I felt less observed). What a thrill it was to read this goofy, serious, wonderful strip about women loving women! I loved it, as well as its rabid sister, *Hot Head Paison* by Mommy St. Wee Wee about a very angry lesbian anarchist terrorist and her loving cat, Chicken. As children, these women probably read the same kinds of comics I did; as creative adults they are aware that those comics don't offer much in the way of interesting or thoughtful women characters. More than other literatures, the comic book medium has been male dominated — not only have almost all of the creators been male, it's been assumed that comics appeal only to young boys. The artists I mention here are all still working against this white male heterosexual tradition.

Love and Rockets is a comic book that's been around for over ten years now. It's the joint production of two brothers, Jamie and Gilbert Hernandez. Each brother writes and draws his own individual stories. Most of Gilbert's stories — "Heartbreak Soup," "Human Diastrophism," "Duck Feet" — take place in a small village called Palomar somewhere in South America. Jamie's setting is usually Barrio Huerta — Hoppers 13 — in a sort of alternate reality California. His main characters, Maggie and her best friend/sometime lover Hopey, start out as high school kids making the punk scene and go from there. One of the main tensions is whether or not Maggie and Hopey will ever realize how much they love each other and settle down together; most of their friends, including Maggie's boyfriend Ray, seem to think that they will do so eventually. But when a friend asks Maggie, "Are you a fag?" Maggie answers:

...You know what I did a coupla weeks ago, and liked? I made love to my best friend Hopey, and it wasn't the first time neither... But you don't understand, I don't think I could do it with just any girl other than Hopey. Well, I never really tried, but...I dunno, I can't explain it... See, Hopey's like... Well, she's really a bitch sometimes... Most of the time... But she's the only person who... See everybody always tells me she's this an' that, and that I should... I should...

In *Love and Rockets* human relationships are portrayed in shades of gray rather than black and white; the brothers are at their best when looking at the things people do and feel, the sorts of things that aren't easily defined or logically explained. Another big plus for this comic is that almost none of the characters are WASPs — they are Hispanic, Asian, Black. The more you read the more involved you become with the characters' lives which are complex, rich, and engaging. Stories by the Hernandez brothers remind me of work

Comics continues on next page



*A partial list of
BiWomen's sources
and resources:*

Island Lifestyle Magazine
P.O. Box 240515
Honolulu, HI 96824-0515
Published monthly.
Subscriptions: \$16.50/yr. third
class, \$24/yr. first class.

off our backs
2423 18th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20009
Published monthly.
Subscriptions: \$19-\$50/yr.

Contemporary Sexuality
A monthly newsletter of the
American Association of Sex
Educators, Counselors and
Therapists (AASECT)
435 North Michigan Ave., Suite
1717, Chicago, IL 60611-4067

Gay Community News
62 Berkeley St.
Boston, MA 02116
Published weekly.
Subscriptions: Indiv. \$39/yr.,
Institutions \$55.

**Maine Bisexual People's
Network Newsletter**
P.O. Box 10772, Portland, ME
04104.

Remember when comics were sold in vending machines at the supermarket? They cost 12¢. I could usually persuade whichever parent I was with to buy me one or two — pure fulfillment as the books, smelling of fresh ink and new paper, swished into the slot. Back then I was into *Wendy Witch*, *Casper the Ghost*, *Archie*, and the best of all, *Superman*. The episode where Supergirl goes into a coffin-like machine to turn herself Black for a day spoke directly to my love of magic and my still-hazy sense of social justice. These days, however, Richie Rich, with his unlimited money and mournful expression, appeals less to me than before — I prefer work that explores topics which concern me as an adult. And comics, being the great and varied art form that it is, did not disappoint me.

Last March I began having strong memories about a woman I had known freshman year at college, a woman with whom I had been in love. For all kinds of reasons we never ended up together, although she was willing. Romantic and literal consumer of popular literature that I was, I didn't have the faintest idea how to act on my feelings for her in a world that seemed to have no room for such things. I turned for help to the library, coming up with dusty books on deviant sexual behavior which did nothing to quiet my fears that I would become a social outcast for life if I let her hold my hand. Eventually, I lost my virginity to an older man and with every successive boyfriend allowed memories of my friend to fade. But every once in a while a woman would come into my life and I would become dizzy and joyful again...

I didn't honor or really acknowledge these feelings towards women until recently. Typically, before I was able to attend a BBWN intro meeting or even speak to anyone about what I was experiencing, I had to do some reading.

I stumbled onto *Dykes to Watch Out For* by Alison Bechdel in Lammas, a women's bookstore in Washington, D.C. I was skulking about, too embarrassed to pick up and purchase *Bi Any Other Name*. (I finally bought it at Lambda Rising, a store more oriented to

Bisexual Pride T-Shirts

only \$14!

Send check or
M.O. to BBWN,
338 Newbury
Street, Suite 202,
Boston, MA
02115

— or save \$1.50
postage and
handling: pick
up a T-shirt at the
Bi office for only
\$12.50!



Call for Papers

If you are a feminist Arab-American, Arab-Canadian or of Arab/Middle-Eastern origin and now living in the U.S. or Canada, consider writing on any topic for an anthology designed to help create visibility of Arab Feminists. Possible topics include history, identity, home, activism, creativity, racism, sexism, classism, homophobia. J. Kadi, P.O. Box 7556, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Comics, from preceding page

by Louise Erdrich, where people you met a book ago have a tendency to reappear in the book you're reading now, older or perhaps younger, living out another stage of their lives. This is convoluted, addicting stuff, and I haven't even gotten into the beautiful black and white artwork...

Roberta Gregory has been in the minority in the comic business for so long (she's a woman) that she has a few bones to pick. In one amusing *têt-à-têt* with her readers, she attacks the preponderance of anatomically implausible, big-breasted beauties, so dear to the male comic book aficionado. Gregory sees her task as presenting a realistic discussion of sex from a more humanistic point of view. This she does beautifully in her book *Artistic Licentiousness*, in which very human people deal with human situations. Denise is a writer, who, after years of being with women, is now recovering from a break-up with a man. When she finally gets up enough nerve to ask out a woman from work, things go really well until her date discovers some condoms in the bathroom. "I don't waste my time with ...BI-WOMEN...GOD! To think I almost had my mouth where some guy's been putting his prick...EUYHH!" shouts the woman, hurriedly pulling on her clothes. "I've taken a bath or two since then!" mutters Denise, trying desperately to figure out a way to salvage the situation. Later, Denise has a brief sexual encounter with her downstairs neighbor, Kevin, who is a comic book artist. Both Denise and Kevin spend time writing and drawing their sexual fantasies — this is how they get together, in fact. By juxtaposing the dreamy sequences of their fantasies with a scene of their real sexual interlude, where things don't go quite as smoothly for them, Gregory makes good on her promise to talk about sex and human relationships the way they are rather than the way they are so often portrayed in comics. Gregory also has a way with dialogue — her characters talk the way people do, not always grammatical, odd sentence fragments and leaps of logic. Her casual drawing style is also very engaging. I love the way Gregory the artist appears in prologues or epilogues to her work, commenting on letters or remarks she's gotten about her comics. In the most recent issue of another of her books, *Naughty Bits*, she talks about a woman who had solicited her work for an anthology, then rejected it for not being "dyke positive." She went on to say she'd heard Gregory was bi, and if so, Gregory's work would not "belong in her comic book." Gregory sent her a reader's definition of "dyke": a woman who is not dependent on men (or women) for her emotional, physical, mental, financial, or general well-being.

Gregory's work was not accepted by this woman in the end, but will be forthcoming in several other gay comic books, much to Gregory's relief as she was beginning to wonder if the whole gay community was going to be angry with her. This kind of dialogue is so important. There are times when Gregory can be a bit heavy handed, but for the most part she is a brave, out-there sexual artist who is doing her part to portray sexual life in a realistic way.

Omaha the Cat Dancer is the only comic mentioned here that features funny animals rather than human beings as characters. It is written by Kate Worley and drawn by Reed Waller, both of whom are bisexual. Omaha's world is made up of all kinds of critters. Their genitals, however, are decidedly human. Omaha is a catlike being, mainly involved with one man but not adverse to sleeping with a woman (or another man) now and then. In her creators' words she is "just normally affectionate and all her glands work and when put next to someone who cares, she responds — not without qualms, but from the heart." This is a sex-positive comic book and in the course of the long rambling plot the characters get it on with some frequency. Omaha herself is an exotic dancer and her circle of friends include a call girl, a gay man, an interracial lesbian couple, and a self-identified bisexual woman who is handicapped. The story is set in Maple City, where certain members of the local government are attempting to "clean up" the neighborhood where Omaha et. al. work and play — the bars and clubs. Waller's drawings, while very sexy at times, lack some of the vibrancy and fullness of the other comics I've mentioned. Both he and Worley are concerned with presenting a liberal-minded feminist book and their letter column is very interesting as it deals with issues of race, sexuality, and religion among other things. While their attitude allows them to be capable of presenting a varied lot of characters, it can also make for dialogue and plot that are sometimes rather bland.

Terry Laban's character Annadette in his book *Unsupervised Existence* is perhaps my most favorite. We first meet her as the friend of Suzy, one half of the couple whose story begins the comic. At that time, Annadette has just broken the heart of another character, Bob, and is exploring her attraction to women — namely, a certain guitarist named Pete. By book six, Annadette is the focus of the comic — her relationship with Pete, her quest for spirituality, her lingering attachment to Bob...Laban's drawing style is endearingly ugly — exaggerated expressions and body shapes — and his dialogue and pacing without flaw. In scenes such as the one where

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Unitarian Network

A Unitarian Universalist Bisexual Network has formed. This is probably the first bi network within any religious denomination. \$10 to UUBN, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME, 04104 will get you a packet which includes the quarterly newsletter, the International Directory of Bisexual Groups, a bibliography, and several other items of interest.

— Source: *Maine Bisexual People's Network Newsletter*, November 1991 issue



Correction:

In our last issue, BiWomen published an incorrect phone number in the advertisement for psychotherapist Sherry M. Cohen. The correct number is (617) 332-3054. The corrected ad appears below.

BiWomen regrets the error.

Bi Politics, CNN-Style

by Loraine Hutchins

How many talk shows have we watched, heard about, or gone on where our bi lives were trivialized, misunderstood or ignored?! (Countless I'm sure.) Fortunately the *Sonya Live* show on CNN Dec. 18, 1991 1-1:30pm was a totally different experience. Daily talk show host and psychologist Sonya Freedman, had originally done a show about Magic Johnson, which was, curiously enough, described to us in AMBi as "a show on bisexuality." However, when we questioned the producer/booker as to the actual content of the show we found out that it had not been about bisexuality at all but about gender roles in general and the tremendous audience response to the discussion that "people aren't always what they appear, they appear macho like Magic Johnson and really may be something else."

Anyway, we agreed to go on, eager to seize any opportunity for live nationwide visibility that puts the issues on the air in a half-way responsible fashion. Dr. Elias Farajaje, Dr. Tina Tessina and myself were interviewed by Sonya, and callers from around the country were invited to respond. AMBi members arranged a special 800 telephone line at Whitman-Walker Clinic (1-800-BIS R FAB) that viewers could call for that day. Inquiry calls were received, mostly from rural areas of the country, and the volunteers were armed with their International Bi Directories and their empathy.

Back at the studio, every time the questioning seemed to verge on the personal we turned it back to the political — and Sonya welcomed it! Points made:

- there are many ways of being bisexual
- people label themselves
- 4/10 are bi by Kinsey (the bi family therapist said this, not us)

- you can come out at different points in life
- sexuality is a rheostat, not an either/or
- the point of gay's biphobia is to look at heterosexism, not see it as gay prejudice in isolation from that (oppressed oppress because of oppression)
- there is no good research on sexual orientation, so we don't know how many people are bisexual
- fear and homophobia keep people in the closet and that's why partners don't use safe sex or even talk about sex (not because they're bisexual)
- coming out is a necessary risk in a risky age, but it's better to live with integrity than to die a slow or fast death of hypocrisy.

Elias and I talked about a movement growing in this country and emphasized the variety of bi identities over and over. Dr. Tessina backed us up, as a "family therapist" on every point we made.

All I can say in closing is that although live, national TV is high risk, it can also be a great educational opportunity (cable seems to be better than the network circuses); and, if you feel you can afford to handle it in your life and you get the opportunity, then take a deep breath, get good counsel, and GO FOR IT! The exhilarating feeling of making a difference by taking a stand and speaking on behalf of beautiful bisexuals everywhere, is worth it.

— Loraine Hutchins is a bi activist and co-editor, along with Lani Kaahumanu, of *BI ANY OTHER NAME: Bisexual People Speak Out* (Alyson Pub., 1991). ▽

Comics, from page 11

Annadette and Suzy shyly express admiration for each other, there is such energy in his drawing that no dialogue is necessary. The story of Annadette builds with quiet force, making issue six of *Unsupervised Existence* one of the most powerful and understated stories about relationships that I've ever read.

I'm now in a bisexual women's support group, loving the way I'm becoming connected with the community. It took a lot of courage to make that first meeting; it helped to know there were others out there like me. Artistic treatment of bisexuality isn't always easy to find. I was so grateful to meet these various, down-to-earth and believable characters — they helped me along as I learned about myself. We are artists and writers, our experiences are vital and interesting and we are out there in the most delightful and original ways. ▽

SHERRY M. COHEN
PSYCHOTHERAPY

P.O. Box 186 (617) 332-3054
West Newton, MA 02165 Insurance/fees negotiable

Call for Papers:

Black women's journals for anthology: by July 1, 1992, with SASE to Patricia Bell-Scott, Dept. Child & Family Development, Dawson Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.



Gay and Lesbian Helpline

Since 1972, the Gay and Lesbian Helpline has been serving New England's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual community. It offers support, information, referrals and crisis intervention to people of all ages – and all Helpline services are free and completely confidential.

The Fenway Community Health Center has been the Helpline's home since 1988. The Helpline can be reached Monday-Friday, 4 - 11 pm, and Sunday, 6 - 11 pm, by calling (617) 267-9001 TTY/voice.

The Helpline needs volunteers to handle the more than 1,000 calls per year that they receive. For more information on volunteering, call (617) 267-0900, x286.

The following is an excerpt from a Washington Post article, beginning with the provocative, tabloid-style headline . . .

NOW Executive Director's Dual Life

The incoming president of the National Organization for Women has been married to a Miami man for nearly 25 years. She also has a female companion in Washington, D.C.

"I have never been anything but very honest about who I am and how I live my life," says Patricia Ireland, who [succeeded] Molly Yard as president of NOW on December 15.

"People are so interested in saying you should limit your love," she said. "I have no interest in having people tell me how to choose my family and who to love."

Ireland, 46, a lawyer and former flight attendant, has been executive vice president of the 250,000-member feminist group for four years. Her husband, James Humble, is a painter.

Ireland discussed her private life in a lengthy interview in the Dec. 17 issue of the Advocate, a national gay magazine. She also addressed the subject in a telephone interview [with the Washington Post].

"I love him," she said of her husband. "He is a very important part of my life and has been for nearly 25 years."

She said her female companion of more than four years is also important to her, adding that she sees no reason to give up either relationship.

Ireland refuses to label herself lesbian or bisexual.

Asked by The Advocate if having a female companion means "you have a love relationship with a woman," she answered that "it's basically the same thing." But she refused to elaborate, either to the magazine or in the interview.

"When you get right up to the issue of what I do behind closed doors – because I'm not into public sex – I have to say that's off limits," Ireland told the magazine. "The other thing is, it's a snapshot. . . . My life is a motion picture, and that's like taking a snapshot."

Ireland said in the telephone interview that she is a firm believer in the right to privacy. "At the same time, the outlines, the public facts of my life are not something I have any interest in hiding," she said. "I think it's important to say who you are. I guess someone being straightforward about their life is still news at this point in history." . . .

In Her Own Image, an intensive workshop in feminist photography, will be offered Sundays **March 15, March 29** and **April 12** from 11am to 4pm at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. in Central Square, Cambridge. This workshop emphasizes the power of women's viewpoints and creativity, and includes a photographic project for participants. **Previous experience in photography is not necessary.** Free. Info and registration: Ananda Lowe, (617) 623-5768.

The NAMES PROJECT Quilt returns to D.C.

The entire AIDS Memorial Quilt will, once again, be on display in '92.

After a lengthy feasibility analysis, the San Francisco-based NAMES PROJECT has announced that over 95% of over 100,00 project supporters and volunteers surveyed endorsed plans for a third D.C. display.

"People are tired of empty rhetoric from our government. The growth of the Quilt is a vivid reminder of the costs of inaction. In 1987 [the first year of the NAMES PROJECT display], we had 26,000 Americans to remember, and it is hard to imagine that we are likely to surpass 200,000 dead when we unfold the Quilt [this year]," stated executive director David Lemos...

Over 20,000 panels are expected for the October 9-11, 1992, display.

—from *Island Lifestyle Magazine*, Honolulu.



7 Haviland Street
Boston
Massachusetts
02115

Nina Carroll, MD
Gynecologist

617-267-0900
FAX 617-267-3667

Ongoing:

◆ Sundays:

Alateen Group open to bisexual, lesbian and gay youth 22 and under who are affected by alcoholism in a family member or a close friend. 6pm. At **THE CENTER**.

◆ Mondays:

Bisexual Alcoholics Anonymous. 7:30-8:30pm, Mass. General Hospital, under Amphitheater (go past the Lower Amphitheater, take stairs up 3 flights). Closed speaker-discussion. Info: Harold at (617) 876-8059.

◆ Tuesdays:

Bisexual Women's Rap Group. 7:30pm-10pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

◆ Wednesdays:

Bisexual Children of Alcoholics. 7:30pm. An Al-Anon meeting for bisexual children of alcoholics. Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to the emergency room entrance), Boston. Info: Marge at (617) 259-1559.

Women's Job Support Network meets 6:30-8:30pm in the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge. This group is free and is a place where women can share resources/experiences, increase motivation, relieve stress, and network with contacts. Info: (617) 354-8807.



(to next page)

CALENDAR, from page 16

March 27-29 ◆ Friday-Sunday
Western (U.S.) Regional Conference of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, Malibu, Calif. Info: (617) 232-2108.

March 30 ◆ Monday
BBWN Volunteer Night. Help stuff the April/May newsletter! See old friends, make new ones! 8-10pm. At **THE CENTER**. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

April 4 ◆ Saturday
NEGAL Traditional Contra and Square Dance, 8-11pm (see February 8).

April 5 ◆ Sunday
Bi Space 8-10pm (see February 2).



"We Won't Go Back" National Reproductive Rights March, National Organization for Women (N.O.W.), Washington, D.C. Info: (202) 331-0066.

April 6 ◆ Monday
BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30pm (see February 3).

April 18 ◆ Saturday
Monthly Bi Brunch. 10:45am at Au Bon Pain, Harvard Square, Cambridge. Next to Harvard T stop on the Red line. Info: (617) BIS-NOTE.

May 1-2 ◆ Friday-Saturday
Working conference on multiculturalism and sexual diversity sponsored by AMBi (the Alliance of Multicultural Bisexuals, "a political action and education group dedicated to being visible and celebrated in all our diversity"). Washington, D.C. Sliding scale, \$5-10 requested. Info: (202) 736-1755

May 2-4 ◆ Saturday-Monday
National Leadership Conference, Human Rights Campaign Fund, Washington, D.C. Info: (202) 628-4160.

May 8 ◆ Friday
Fifth Annual Gathering of Gay and Lesbian Native Americans, American Indian Gays and Lesbians, Vancouver B.C., Canada. Info: (612) 721-9800.

May 16 ◆ Saturday
Pride: Long Beach Calif.

May 17 ◆ Sunday
Pride: Washington, D.C.



May 21-25 ◆ Thursday-Monday
Ninth Southern Women's Music and Comedy Fest, Atlanta, Ga. Info: (818) 893-4075.

May 24 ◆ Sunday
Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration, Wash., D.C.

May 29-31 ◆ Friday-Sunday
BiNet National Conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

June 6 ◆ Saturday
Pride: Montpelier, Vt., and Philadelphia, Penn. [Bi is in the name!]

June 7 ◆ Sunday
Pride: Baltimore, Md., and Santa Cruz, Calif.

June 13 ◆ Saturday
Boston Pride!
Pride: Boise, Id., Las Vegas, Nev., and San Jose, Calif.

June 14 ◆ Sunday
Pride: Long Island, N.Y.

June 19 ◆ Friday
Pride: Concord, N.H., and San Diego, Calif.

June 20 ◆ Saturday
Pride: Hartford, Conn, New Hampshire (state), Kansas City, Mo., Milwaukee, Wisc., Minneapolis, Minn., Pittsburgh, Penn. [Bi is in the name!], Portland, Ore., Providence, R.I., and Cape Cod, Mass.

June 21 ◆ Sunday
Pride: Wichita, Kansas.

June 26-28 ◆ Friday-Sunday
National Organization for Women National Convention, Chicago, Ill. Info: (202) 331-0066.

June 27-28 ◆ Saturday-Sunday
Pride: Los Angeles, Calif. and New York City.

June 28 ◆ Sunday
Pride: Chicago, Ill., Boulder, Colo., Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Houston, Tex., Saint Louis, Misso., San Francisco, Calif., Seattle, Wash., Sioux Falls, S.D., London (England), St. Berlin (Germany).

July 12-14 ◆ Sunday-Tuesday
International Lesbian and Gay Association Annual Conference, Paris, France. Info: (+32 2 502 2471)

September 3-7 ◆ Thursday-Monday
West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival, Yosemite, Calif. Info: (818) 893-4075.

October 9-11 ◆ Friday-Sunday
The NAMES PROJECT Quilt will be back in Washington, D.C. (see related article, page 13).

October 12 ◆ Monday
National Coming Out Day!!!!

November 13-15 ◆ Friday-Sunday
Fifth Creating Change Conference, NGLTF. Info: (202) 332-6483. (See related articles, pages 8 and 9.)

Looking WAY ahead . . .



April 25, 1993 ◆ Sunday
National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay [and Bisexual] Rights

June 1994
Stonewall 25 Celebration in NYC. During the last week of June. Lots of conferences, events, etc., including a bi conference!

▼
(from previous page)

◆ **Third Thursday of each month:**
Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau meets 8-10pm at **THE CENTER**. Info: (617) 354-0133.

◆ **Fridays:**
The Friday Night Video Series at THE CENTER, 7pm. Suggested donation \$1. Info: (617) 247-2927.

Steppin' Out on Broadway, Country/Western dances for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Friends. 8pm dance lessons. 9pm-midnight: Texas two-step, Swing, and Line dancing. Smoke/alcohol-free, juice bar, DJ. Admission \$5. At "On Broadway," 880 Broadway, Somerville. Info: Dee at (617) 562-0294.

◆ **First Saturday of the month:**
Swingtime, Boston's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Swing and Ballroom Dance, 8:15pm-midnight. Free dance lesson at 8:15pm. Smoke-/alcohol-free. Beginners welcome. \$5 includes refreshments. At the Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square. Info: (617) 629-2219.

◆ **Fourth Saturday of the month:**
Slow Dancing at THE CENTER, 9pm-1am. Featuring romantic music and a slow dance lesson. Suggested donation \$5. Info: (617) 247-2927.

Free Peer Counseling

The University of Massachusetts (Amherst) Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Counseling Collective offers free **peer counseling** to anyone, and also has a library and resource referral information. Call (413) 545-2645.

Creating Change, from page 8

hadn't even been included on the panel about them (except by chance) and that people who taught gay studies DIDN'T necessarily know about how to teach bi studies and we should have been involved at an earlier date. (Jewell Gomez, her co-presenter, had backed her up on this at the workshop, expressing that she felt the movement had a lot to learn from bisexuals.) Woody Cartwright had been similarly but even more shabbily treated in the Men's Sexuality panel where he'd been invited to sit in at the last moment and then edged off to the side (there was no chair in front, he sat with the audience) when more late-arriving male media/sex stars took over the podium. (The impression left was that bi men's sexuality is at most an afterthought.) At the Lesbians and Gay Men Cross-Talk workshop sexual relations between lesbians and gays were discussed only in terms of "heterosex occurrences," not within any bi context. (The workshop was billed as an opportunity for gay men and lesbians to talk about each other's sexuality in ways they don't often get to, which is great, but it's hard to believe there were no bisexual experiences experienced bisexually among them.) There were numerous instances of correcting biphobic assumptions, such as the one made by a panelist at the workshop on marriage and domestic partnerships that all bisexuals have multiple relationships. Misha, a bi student activist, announced he'd attended a Media workshop where he'd pointed out to the facilitator that the Taskforce's language was not bi-inclusive and that he was doing a mark-up of their literature and press-releases and sending it to them to show them how it could be. Some info-sharing and organizing strategizing about bi inclusion at the 1993 March on Washington planning meetings was also included during the caucus time.

About the only time bis were ever mentioned in the plenaries was when we were named as vectors of AIDS. The lesbian leader of the workshop on working with gay, lesbian and bi youth told us that she had written up her descriptions to be bi inclusive and that the language had been changed to eliminate bis when it was printed in the program. Robyn Ochs also reported that after the conference she noticed that the Taskforce literature excised the "B" word even from mentions of student and veterans groups (where these groups regularly include it) and that she had since written a letter to the Taskforce asking that this be addressed and received an answer from them that it would be.

On the plus side, several Taskforce staff and Board members expressed support of us and asked how they could help improve les/bi/gay communication more. The booth was a

huge success and made a huge difference in everyone's perception of our presence. (We were located right at the entrance to the main hall.) Lastly, the Biphobia Workshop, though it occurred 9 a.m. the last day (after a late night concert) was well-attended and gay and bi participants stayed way beyond its one-hour allotted time and continued to dialogue in the hallway. What started off as a painful and anger-venting experience ("what are your worst fears about bisexuals...?") ended on a softer, stronger note with people from both sides making arrangements to continue working together.

Now it's time for someone(s) else to pick up the ball for next year. I'm exhausted, but available for co-conspiring, as usual. It's gonna be in LA this time, so take it away, CALIFORNIA!!! ▼

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☐ Regular member: \$18

☐ Goddess-in-Training: \$30

☐ Goddess: \$50

☐ Matron Saint (WOW!): \$100

Send this form along with your check to:

BBWN

338 Newbury Street, 202

Boston, MA 02115

CALENDAR

THE CENTER
is the Lesbian, Gay and
Bisexual Community Center,
338 Newbury Street, 202,
Boston, MA 02115.

*For Ongoing
Events, see pages
14 and 15*

◆
**February 13
Thursday:
Bisexual Love
Stories**

Personal storytelling
night for women, to
acknowledge and share
the experience of loving
and being in love.

Bring your memories,
snapshots, love letters,
etc., and listen or tell
about who you've
loved, in a fun, sup-
portive environment.

No public speaking
experience necessary!
All women welcome.

Free; refreshments
provided. At the
Women's Center,
46 Pleasant Street,
Cambridge, Mass.
Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

◆
**March 30
Monday:**

**BBWN Volunteer
Night**

Help stuff the April/
May issue of BiWomen!
See old friends, make
new ones. It really is
fun, especially a lot of
women show up! You
can read BiWomen hot
off the press!

6-10pm at **THE CENTER**.



Get out your datebooks!

Bis are rapidly becoming a visible presence
in the "lesbian/gay community," and beyond.
We are women, we are mothers, we are black,
we are Latina, we are educators, writers, lovers
and more. There's power in numbers, so let's go
OUT and be a VISIBLE part of our many
communities!

February 1 ◆ Saturday

Women's Coffeehouse at **THE CENTER**. Doors open at
7pm, shows start at 8pm. Tickets available night of
performance. \$6 suggested donation. Tonight: Open Mike
- Women's Comedy. Info: Denise Sorese at The Center,
(617) 247-2927.

February 2 ◆ Sunday

Bi Space. 8-10pm. A friendly rap space to meet other
bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. A \$2 donation is
requested. Room 204 at **THE CENTER**. Info: (617) BIS-
NOTE.

February 3 ◆ Monday

BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30pm. A safe place for
women who want to learn more about bisexuality —
myths, theories, experiences — and to connect with the bi
community. All women welcome! At the Women's Center,
46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, Mass.

February 8 ◆ Saturday

BBWN Potluck Brunch. 12 noon at Robyn's in the
Central Square area of Cambridge. Info: (617) BIS-NOTE.

**New England Gay and Lesbian (NEGAL) Traditional
Contra and Square Dance** for lesbians, gays, bisexuals
and their friends. 8-11pm (beginner's lesson at 7:30pm) at
the First Church of Jamaica Plain, Centre and Eliot Sts.,
Jamaica Plain. "Singles Night." Smoke- and alcohol-free.
\$5. Please wear soft-soled shoes. Info: Janet (617) 522-
2216.

February 10 ◆ Monday

**BBWN WHERE-DO-WE-WANT-TO-BE-AND-
HOW-DO-WE-GET-THERE?** meeting (third in a
series). ALL women welcome! At Robyn's in the
Central Square area of Cambridge. Info and
directions: (617) BIS-MOVE.

February 13 ◆ Thursday

Bisexual Love Stories personal storytelling night for
women (see details at left). 7pm at **THE CENTER**.

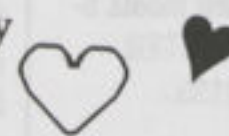
February 13-17 ◆ Thursday-Monday

National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference. Black gay
and lesbian leadership forum, Oakland, Calif. Info: (213)
666-5495.

February 14 ◆ Friday

Happy Valentine's Day!

National Bi Visibility Day!!



February 15 ◆ Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. 10:45am at the S&S Deli, 1334
Cambridge St., Inman Sq., Cambridge. Nearest T stop (12
minute walk): Central Square on the Red line. Info: (617)
BIS-NOTE.

Women's Coffeehouse (see February 1). Doors open at
7pm, shows start at 8pm. Tonight: Sue Ryder.

February 22 ◆ Saturday

NEGAL Traditional Contra and Square Dance, 8-11pm
(see February 8).

February 23 ◆ Sunday

Biversity Boston General Meeting. 8-10pm at **THE
CENTER**. Agenda: Pot luck meetings? How to make
Biversity more user-friendly. Other agenda items welcome.
Info: (617) BIS-NOTE.

February 28-March 1 ◆ Friday-Sunday

Maine Cross-Country Ski Weekend. Sponsored by
Biversity Boston. Cross-country skiing, sauna, hot tub,
pool, food, big house with fireplace, and great people.
Price is \$40-\$55 (sliding scale). Info and reservations:
Ginnie at (617) 864-3404. Space is limited.

March 1 ◆ Sunday

Bi Space 8-10pm (see February 2).



March 7 ◆ Saturday

Women's Coffeehouse (see February 1). Doors open at
7pm, shows start at 8pm. Tonight: Movie (to be
announced).

NEGAL Traditional Contra and Square Dance, 8-11pm
(see February 8). Live band, \$6.

March 13 ◆ Friday

BiWomen NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!!!!



March 21 ◆ Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. 10:45am at Sibel's Restaurant, 100
Peterborough St., Boston. Nearest T stop: Fenway on the
Green line. Info: (617) BIS-NOTE.

NEGAL Traditional Contra and Square Dance

Jamboree, 2pm (see February 8 for background info).
Info: Janet (617) 522-2216.

Women's Coffeehouse (see February 1). Doors open at
7pm, shows start at 8pm. Tonight: Tricia Langlois.

March 22 ◆ Sunday

Biversity Boston General Meeting. 8-10pm at the
Women's Center in Cambridge. Info: (617) BIS-NOTE.

CALENDAR continues on page 14

April/May 1992

Vol. 10 No. 2

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

The 1993 March on Washington



For Lesbian, Gay and

Bi-Equal Rights and
Liberation

The 1993 March on Washington is moving forward toward its April 25, 1993, date, but under a new name: The 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. This name was decided upon at a National Steering Committee meeting in Los Angeles in January. The Committee is comprised of four representatives from each of the 17 regions; the representatives must be at least 50% women and at least 50% people of color.

There has been a strong bisexual lobby since August to have bisexual included in the title.

Washington continues on page 6

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Bi Focus

by Laura M. Perez

I was asked if i wanted to revitalize the old but not forgotten feature of Bi Women, the "Bi of the Month" (which should have been more appropriately titled "The BiMonthly Bi"). I immediately accepted the task knowing that i would have the opportunity to write about and meet women from different places and backgrounds with various foci on hundreds of issues in the bisexual community.

In bringing this feature back to life, i thought the readers would be interested in learning about the author. To the horror of some and the joy of others, i self-identify as a heterosexually-

identified (in transition) bisexual peruana/Latina feminist, in that order.

Explanation? The first part, the heterosexual thing, refers to the fact that my primary emotional and sexual relationships have almost been exclusively with men. I'm in transition because i'm getting in touch with my woman-loving woman self. My definition of the "b" word is my ability to be attracted to, love and be intimate with people of all genders. In truth, i believe that "bisexuality" is too limiting a term — it will do for now, though. Soy chalaca (i was born in Callao, Peru) and prefer the word

Bi Focus continues on page 4

Printed on
recycled paper

BBWN News

Honor Roll



Claire M.
Laura P.
Doreen A.
Laura S.
Susan R.
Gail Z.
Ginny S.
Stephanie B.
Kathleen H.
Susan S.
Michelle H.
Lucy F.
Sharon G.
Robyn O.
Ann G.
Annie S.
Rebecca K.
Carole M.

BiWomen is published
bi-monthly, of course.

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Nancy Irwin
W. B.
Heather Came
Roberta Gregory
Jill Nagle
Giles
Drew Lewis
Stephanie Berger

Volunteers Needed for Pride Day

The bi networks will have a table at the Boston Common, as we do every year. Volunteers are needed to staff the table, in shifts. **Please** help your network out by taking a shift. Call (617) BIS-MOVE to volunteer.

Advertise in BiWomen!

For only \$10 per issue, your message will reach over 700 subscribers. Save \$5 and advertise in three issues for \$25.

Send your business-card sized ad and a check to:

BiWomen, c/o BBWN
338 Newbury Street, 202
Boston, MA 02115

Such a deal!



DEADLINE for the

June / July issue:

Friday, May 8, 1992

All submissions in writing, please, and include a name and phone number if possible. If you do not want your name published, please tell us! Otherwise we will assume that you do not mind being listed as a contributor. You may contribute anonymously, or just use your first name or initials if you wish.

Send articles, calendar entries, letters, art, news and views to:

BiWomen, BBWN
338 Newbury Street, 202
Boston, MA 02115

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

The Center Seeks New Space

The Board of Directors of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Center has voted to move from our present location by July 1, 1992. This decision was prompted by two factors: the desire for the community to "own" its own home; and the landlord's desire to expand the Trident Bookstore and Cafe upstairs.

The Board voted to look for property with three specific areas in mind. First, the availability of City of Boston property to be donated (or purchased for a minimal fee). Second, property to be donated in part or in full by private donors for charitable tax deductions. Third, rental space with larger meeting rooms(s) and fewer small offices for the same or less money. John Meunier, Mayor Flynn's Liaison to the Gay Community, agreed at The Center's birthday party last September to pursue City property for The Center. Several parcels have been considered to date.

The Center seeks 5,000 square feet of space. Unfinished space is fine. "Needs much work" is fine. Public transportation and wheelchair accessibility are the only absolute necessities. Everything else is negotiable. If you would be willing to work on the "Home Team" or know of any space with a possibly June+ availability, please call the Board at (617) 247-1451.

— from *The Center Times*

ECBN President Steps Down

Woody Glenn has decided to step down as president of the East Coast Bisexual Network. His work over the past two years has been tireless and greatly appreciated. Work on choosing a successor has begun. Woody will continue his work as the manager of the Bisexual Resource Office.

— reported in *BBMN News*

New Edition of Directory of Bi Groups Available

The new and expanded 8th edition of the directory is now available. BBWN members are entitled to a \$1 discount (membership has its privileges...). To order your copy, send \$4 to ECBN (that's the East Coast Bisexual Network), 338 Newbury St. Suite 202, Boston, MA 02115.

Letters

Hello BiWomen!

As a member of the political dyke community for the past 10 years, I learned (quickly) to suppress my bisexuality. We all know how unsupportive that community has been. I was thrilled

when I saw a bisexual contingent in the N.Y. Pride Parade just four short years ago. At that time, I totally lacked the courage to associate, but I was grateful for their presence. I knew (as a lesbian) that they came out for those, like myself, who could not.

A lot has changed since then. There are bisexual support groups and social groups everywhere, and this wonderful newsletter that I love getting.

A number of years back I committed an "indiscretion." I had a lovely affair with a man. Due to my politics, I had to tell at least my closest friends. I was afraid they'd drop me on the spot, but, to my surprise, my friends told me they accept me as I am. Period. (But I did only tell a handful.)

I got involved with a man again while I was biking in Central America. Imagine how hard it was to invite him to my homecoming party to meet 50 or so friends, all queer, who would know I'd been sleeping with him. Hey, he was my friend, too! Due to my lesbian politics, I felt I had to come out. And, again, it was actually OK. (I guess I have really great friends.)

This is not to say I haven't suffered. Many have done their fair share of bi-trashing within my hearing range. I've kept silent and I've opened my mouth. Silence is easier on the surface. My lesbian politics taught me to speak up for minority rights, for myself, and for a woman's right to choose. Unfortunately, that right doesn't include choosing men.

The issue surrounding the Northampton Parade [see *BiWomen* Aug./Sept. 1991, Vol. 9 No. 4] has been a great forum for discussion, and helped me to share my views in a less personal environment. I also got to feel the anger from the lesbian community that feels so threatened. Sisters, Sisters, where is the support you pledged when I first came out? We are women first!

I made an executive decision to give up men. I decided it wasn't worth the hassle. Besides, and lucky for me, they are not my preference.

The came Fetisn [sic. *Fetish*?] Night in Toronto. I met a beautiful boy, one I would have gone home with on the spot had I not made my promise. I stuck to it, and sent my sweet one-night stand home alone, wondering about my

sanity, my politics, and the location of all those lesbians who were gonna fuck me that night. I sent him away, and along with him I sent my lesbianism.

Like it or not, I am bisexual. I have been coming out and out and out. And guess what? I like being bi!

Afraid of being kicked out of the lesbian community, I began actively seeking a new community that would be supportive. I discovered in New York a wonderful, though mostly straight, SM community that welcomed me with open arms. Feeling as an outcast, I was (and am) grateful for their support.

Well, I haven't given up on the lesbian community. It is my home, after all. And I do love women. But it has become a lot easier to come out with each time I do it. I'm feeling stronger than ever. And I'm exercising my right to choose.

The more bisexuality comes out of the closet, the easier it is for all of us. It is my hope that in the near future it will no longer be an issue, that we will be accepted across society regardless of which sex we choose to touch. I'd like to find that acceptance in the lesbian and gay community first.

I thank all those who marched under the bisexual banner. I'd like to thank the organizers of the first bisexual conference in Boston. And I'd like to thank all those who've come out before me. All have added to my strength. Now, I can only hope to help liberate others through my own example. It ain't easy. This is my first such public statement. When I can send a letter like this to my women's bike club newsletter, or when I can stand up before a large group of lesbians and speak for bisexual rights, I'll know I'm closer. Maybe today's the day!! Meanwhile, I'll enjoy sex with both women and men, and enjoy my newfound freedom!

Nancy Irwin

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

Dear BBWN,

Alright already! I stopped paying dues years ago but you have continued, nonetheless, to send me the newsletter. I confess, I still read it pretty much cover to cover, but my ambivalence remains the same after all these years. I am, however, enclosing a check for membership. Much as I have trouble getting behind all this sexuality activism, it is clear to me that I benefit from those of you who are active, and this is the least I can do. I'm still not prepared to do more than the least. I still wish I could find a nice man and "settle down" to marriage and kids. And I still love women and

Letters continue on next page

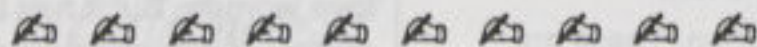


Letters, from preceding page

the freedom that is enhanced by the normalization of the label "bisexual."

It would be much easier for me to be able to go one way or the other. But I don't feel like I chose this path any more than my lesbian, gay, and straight friends chose theirs. Thank you, BBWN, for helping to validate who and what I am. I appreciate your continued understanding of my silence and struggle, as I evaluate my sense of self and safety, and choose my arenas for coming out.

Sincerely,
W.B.



Dear Kathleen,

What a thrill to see my article in print! Thank you for including it in the latest BiWomen [Feb./ March 1992, *Bisexual Women in Comics*].

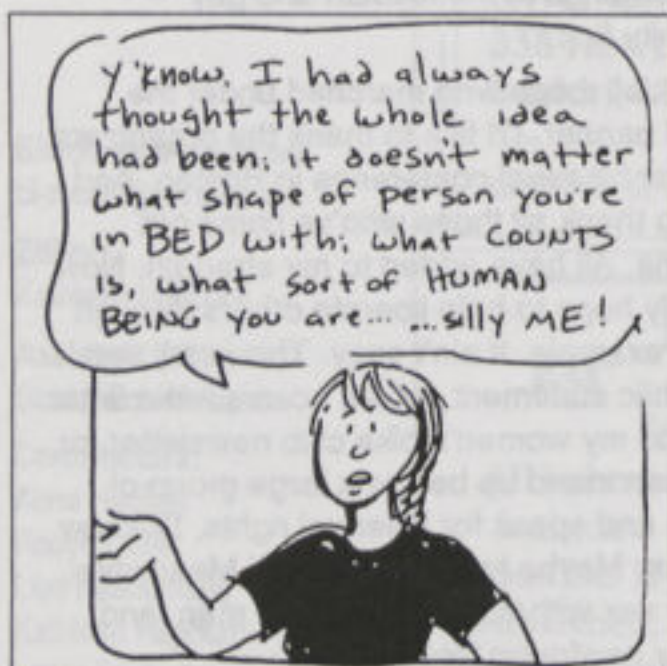
I do wonder about your choice to use Hothead Paison, Harriet and Moe to illustrate

the article, however. These characters are all lesbians, not bisexual women. Had I known you wanted to use illustrations, I would have been more than happy to provide more appropriate ones – namely, ones depicting some bisexual women characters the articles addressed. Somebody just skimming through the newsletter might get the impression that I thought Hothead et. al. were bisexual, which I do not. In the future perhaps it would be helpful to contact the author before choosing the illustrations for an article.

That aside, I think you're doing a good job with the newsletter and I appreciate the work you put into it.

Sincerely,
Anna Watson

Illustrations by
Roberta Gregory.
Bottom: Denise and
Kevin, *Artistic
Licentiousness*.



Kia ora,

Hope the movement is going well on your side of the world. Things have never been so good for us; we are currently organising a residential national conference, which is most exciting. We have been well supported by the wider queer community just now also, virtually all venues and most queer groups are bi inclusive. Unfortunately, though, the Human Rights Amendment Bill, which would have provided us and other "special" groups legislative protection from discrimination has been lost again.

In deviance,
Heather Came for Bi-Focal (New Zealand)



Bi Focus, from page 1

Latina to Hispanic woman. The most important issue for me as a woman is being a woman, a woman who is aware of how the world views and treats me as such and working with and for my sisters' and brothers' fullest potential. Being a feminist is my core identification, followed by my ethnicity and my sexual preferentation (a cross between preference and orientation).

So, that's me in an open nutshell. What I'd like to do for future articles is interview other bisexual women of color and other heterosexually-identified bisexual women since both these groups have much to contribute to the bisexual community. Of course, this space is open and no bisexual woman will be rejected regardless of who she is.

Other topics I'd like to explore are the tension between the lesbian and bisexual women communities, our role as bisexual women in the "queer movement", the issues bisexual women of color have with the bisexual community at large, and bisexual women as parents, to name a few.

If you have other ideas for issues or themes to be discussed in Bi Focus or would like to be the subject of an upcoming article, please leave a message for Laura at BIS-MOVE.

P.S. **For Bisexual Women of Color** I'm beginning a support group exclusively for us! If you are interested or would like more information, please call BIS-MOVE and leave me a message.

Pride News

Bisexual Pride T-Shirts

only \$14!

Send check or
M.O. to BBWN,
338 Newbury
Street, Suite 202,
Boston, MA
02115

- or save \$1.50
postage and
handling: pick
up a T-shirt at the
Bi office for only
\$12.50!

Bi Pride in Philly

Bi visibility is on the rise in Philadelphia! The Lesbian and Gay Pride of Delaware Valley Inc. (LGPDV), the group that organizes Philadelphia's annual Pride parade and festival, is now officially the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride of Delaware Valley Inc. (LGBPDV). On October 14, at LGPDV's latest annual open meeting, the name change proposal was approved by the general membership. The proposal was drafted by BiUnity's Political and Educational Action Committee and submitted at LGPDV's meeting on September 16. At the October 14 meeting the name change was passed by a 39-2 vote. At least 10 bi's were there to support the name change, and they helped vote into office Woody Cartwright, the first out bisexual activist to serve on LGBPDV's board of directors.

- reported by Cappy Harrison in *BiFocus* (Philadelphia).

New Jersey Passes Rights Bill, Celebrates with Pride March

An eight-year struggle has finally been won. On January 13, 1992, both houses of the New Jersey State legislature passed bill A-634 that will extend New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination to include affectional or sexual orientation.

The law prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing and credit or loans. The legislature already guaranteed these protections based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, marital status, ability for service in the U.S. Armed Forces and nationality. Now lesbians, gay men and bisexuals are included. New Jersey becomes the fifth state to enact such a law joining Wisconsin, Connecticut, Hawaii, and Massachusetts.

The first annual New Jersey Gay Pride Parade will be on Saturday June 6, 1992, at The Boardwalk in Asbury Park, the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition announced this week. The parade will celebrate the victories of the New Jersey gay, lesbian, and bisexual community in the last year. The event will be a full day of activities topped off by a concert and fireworks. June is the traditional month for gay pride celebrations and New Jersey's parade will be the earliest on the east coast.

"There is a lot for New Jersey to celebrate this year: Last year Governor Florio declared June to be Gay Pride month, this past autumn New Jersey's domestic violence laws were re-written to include same-sex couples, and most significantly on January 19, 1992, New Jersey became the fifth state to make discrimination based on sexual orientation illegal," said Laura Pople, President of the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition.

The NJLGC serves as the representative voice of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual community in New Jersey. It is a state-wide umbrella organization which proudly represents more than 20 organizations whose collective individual members number in the thousands. New Jersey is the only state with such an umbrella organization. The coalition can be reached at P.O. Box 11335, New Brunswick, NJ 08906-1335. People, vendors, and organizations that would like to participate should contact one of the NJLGC Parade Committee Co-Chairs Karen CyBulski (908) 469-8285 or John Parker (908) 561-4459.

- from the *National NOW Times* and
NJLGC.

BUTTONS!

BISEXUAL
PRIDE

\$1

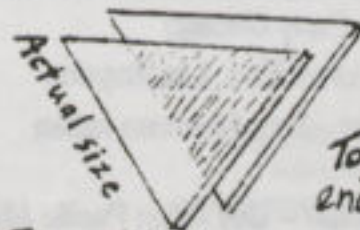
Bisexual
Queer

plus a stamped, self-addressed envelope
or 50¢ postage & handling

Send to: BBWN, c/o LGBCC

338 Newbury Street, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02115

BEAUTIFUL BI-WEAR!



**New BI PRIDE
jewelry pins & earrings!**
Top quality hand-crafted copper
enamel in pink/lavender/blue

Pins: \$5 ea. (+50¢ postage) / \$4.50 ea. 10-29 pins / \$4 ea. 30 or more
Earrings (posts): \$10 pr. (+50¢ postage) / \$9 pr. 10-29 prs. / \$8 - 30 prs. or more
(Add \$3 postage for over 15 pc.) Make out ck. or money order to: E. Nania
52 Garrison Rd., Brookline, MA 02146 - Allow 3 weeks delivery.

Order
now for
PRIDE DAY!



Washington, from page 1

Arriving at the current name was a tumultuous process of emotional debates and compromise that took a day and a half of the two day meeting — the item was originally scheduled for two hours. The new title not only is inclusive of bisexuals (who compromised to the term 'bi' because some people objected to the word 'sexual' being in the name of the March), but also reflects the sentiment that we are not fighting for special rights, just equal rights. It further reflects that even when rights are won, we may still not be liberated, which is the ultimate goal.

Two other major decisions were made at the meeting. One was to keep the 1987 March on Washington Platform as the foundation upon which the rest of the demands will be built. The platform will be decided on at the next National Steering Committee meeting in Dallas, May 9 and 10. The other decision was the selection of a nine person Executive Committee.

— from *Options*, Rhode Island's Lesbian and Gay Newspaper.

The following letter was sent to the March Committee in January of this year.

We are: Brenda Howard, Danny Blitz, /NY, Ben Silver, Ann Gardner, Sheila Mabry /NY, Charles Gutman, Providence /RI, Stephanie Berger, Cliff Arneson, Alan Hamilton, Woody Glenn /Boston, Woody Cartright /Philadelphia, Jon Sutton /Minneapolis, Kuwaza Imara, Autumn Courtney, Naomi Tucker, Lani Kaahumanu, Maggi Rubenstein, /San Francisco, Dawn Palmer, ben e factory /Seattle, Michael Ambrosino /Portland, Ron Owen /Los Angeles, Gary North /Long Beach, Melissa Merry /Chicago, Mark Clark /Miami, Loraine Hutchins, Elias Farjate-Jones /Washington, D.C.

TO THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON:

As local, regional and national lesbian and gay leaders we support the inclusion of bisexual rights in the Call for the 1993 March on Washington.

We feel it is the perfect opportunity for the gay and lesbian movement to affirm the politics and vision of the many diverse groups nationwide who have recognized and now include bisexual in their titles. These include veterans groups, student groups on college campuses,

political and cultural organizations, pride parades and celebrations, Queer Nation and their affinity groups, newspapers and community centers.

Gay men, Lesbians and Bisexual people are all under attack. There is strength in our numbers. Bisexuals have been an important part of the lesbian/gay community and movement for decades. It is time to recognize their contributions and to encourage more bisexuals to come out publicly in support of lesbian, gay and bisexual rights. We advocate expanding the 1993 Call to Washington to read:

THE 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL RIGHTS
*Organizations listed for identity purposes only

Congressman Gerry Studds, Massachusetts
Karen Clark, State Representative, Minnesota
David Scondras, City Councilor, Boston
Roberta Achtenberg, Board of Supervisors, San Francisco
Carole Migden, Board of Supervisors, San Francisco
Harry Britt, Board of Supervisors, San Francisco
Miriam Ben-Shalom, Chair — National Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Veterans of America
Norm Nickens, Chair — National Minority AIDS Council
Lenore Chin, Commissioner — Human Rights Commission SF
Glenn Magpantay, Co-Chair of the National Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student Caucus of the United States Student Association
Rick Garcia — Illinois Federation for Human Rights
Hank Tavera, Co-Chair — LLEGO California Latino/a Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Organization
Laura Pople, President — New Jersey Lesbian/Gay Coalition
Evan Wolfson — Lambda Legal Defense Fund New York
Ann DeGroot, Executive Director — Gay & Lesbian Community Action Council, Minneapolis, MN
Anne Maria Silvia, Executive Director — Rhode Island Project AIDS
Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin — co-founders Daughters of Bilitis
Sally Gearhart — activist/writer
Barbara Cameron, activist, writer, Executive Director — Community United Against Violence
Laurie Dittman — IMPACT Chicago
Al Wardell, Executive Director — Rodde Center Chicago
Joan Jett Blakk, Drag Activist, Presidential Candidate — Queer Nation Party Chicago
Michael Epstein, John Duran, Esq., Los Angeles
Randy Burns, Co-founder — Gay American Indian Movement
Donald Masuda, Co-founder — Gay Asian Pacific Alliance
Roma Guy, Founder — San Francisco Women's Building
John Wahl, Esq., Walter Parsley, Esq. — Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Voters Project San Francisco
Donna Ozawa, Co-founder — LYRIC (Lavender Youth)
Ken Jones — Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club

Washington continues on next page



7 Haviland Street
Boston
Massachusetts
02115

Nina Carroll, MD
Gynecologist

617-267-0900
FAX 617-267-3667



Pen-Pals

Feeling isolated? Want some foreign stamps? Into global networking? Solve all your problems by sending a stamped (international reply coupon?) self-addressed envelope inside another envelope addressed to: Bisexual Pen-Pals, Edinburgh Bisexual Group, 58a Broughton St., Edinburgh, EH1 3SA, United Kingdom.

— from *Bi-Lines*, the newsletter of the Wellington, Australia, Bisexual Women's Group

Washington, from preceding page

Dorothy Alison — writer/poet
Allan Berube, Gayle Rubin — historians/writers
Pat Califia — writer/poet/activist
Eric Rofes — activist, writer
Tede Matthews, activist, writer, poet
Jeffrey Escoffier, Publisher — OUTLOOK
Kim Corsaro, Editor/Publisher — SF Bay Times
Jan Adams, Editor/Publisher — Lesbian Connection
Blackberri, singer, songwriter, poet
June Millington, singer, song writer, musician
Judith Kate Friedman, singer, song writer, activist
Nancy Shaw-Stoller, Professor UC Santa Cruz
Carter Wilson, Writer, Professor Community Studies UC Santa Cruz
Mark Collingsworth, President — Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Union, California State University Northridge
Connie Norman, AIDS Diva, radio talk show host, Los Angeles
Paul DiDonato — Director of Public Policy, AIDS Legal Referral Panel, San Francisco
John Selden Wilhite, Mark Baldwin — SF AIDS Foundation
Penelope A. Chronis, Simeon White, Judith E. Stevenson — Lesbian/Gay Advisory Committee to SF Human Rights Commission (HRC)
Cynthia Goldstein, Esq. — AIDS Discrimination Unit, SF HRC
Larry Brinkin — Sexual Orientation Discrimination Unit, SF HRC
Albert Lucero, Douglas Conrad — East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club
Marj Plumb, Executive Director — Lyon Martin Women's Health Center
Dr. Diane Sabin, Board — National Center for Lesbian Rights
Jean M.B. Genasci, Northeast Regional Director — P-FLAG

This national action was sponsored by BiPOL/BiNET USA before the March on Washington meeting in Los Angeles last January 1992. BiPOL felt it was time to ask our friends and allies to take the next step in supporting our right to be recognized. It was a powerful

message to those who read the letter. It is an important "next step" in our national coming out process for us as a movement and for those lesbian and gay allies who support us. The leaders who signed the endorsement will take some of the necessary heat of challenging biphobia in the larger gay lesbian and trans community. Please feel free to use the endorsement letter as a letter to the editor, in queer, women's and progressive newspapers as well as all of our fabulous newsletters.

This endorsement campaign was the key groundwork done before the meeting where Bi was added to the name of the march. Those who attended the Los Angeles meeting were: Danny Blitz and Brenda Howard regional reps to MOW from NY, Lani Kaahumanu temporary regional rep from Northern California, Autumn Courtney and Gerard Palmeri of BiPOL, Rebecca Hensler of Queer Nation SF and ACT UP!. Charles Gutman regional rep from Rhode Island could not raise the funds to attend the meeting in Los Angeles but was instrumental in obtaining signatures.

We had many many lesbian and gay allies who supported us and worked with us through out this process. This is only a beginning. There is alot alot alot of work to do.

Alyson Publications sent a copy of Bi Any Other Name to each Executive Committee member (11 copies) for educational purposes. BiPOL, BiPACNY and ECBN are putting together Bi101 educational packets for the 69 regional reps that will include the International Directory, list of speakers bureaus and those willing to be available to speak on bisexual issues, reprints of bi articles to be included in local and regional media packets, etc. so they will be able to work on their own biphobia and the biphobia they will encounter from the communities and the media. Anyone who wants to be a contact please call Lani 415/821-3534. The mailing will go out before mid-April to arrive a week or two before the next national meeting in Dallas — May 9-10th. FUNDS ARE NEEDED TO PAY FOR THIS MAILING. PLEASE SEND CHECKS TO BiPOL C/O LANI 584 Castro #422 SF CA 94114 ASAP... This is an investment in our future as a movement and will in the long run pay off... Thank you so much for being involved and getting involved. Our time is here, let's jump on it!

Lani Kaahumanu



TELEPHONE (617) 455-6189

BET MACARTHUR, MSW LICSW
PSYCHOTHERAPY & CONSULTATION
BOARD-CERTIFIED DIPLOMATE IN CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK

14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

Minnesotans Host Regional Bi Conference



by Jill Nagle

On February 7, 1992, well over 100 people gathered in the modest-sized President's Hall room at the University of Minnesota, a space flanked by portraits of DWM's [dead white men], to hear Lani Kaahumanu, the warm, witty irreverent co-editor of *Bi Any Other Name* deliver the keynote address for the BE-CAUSE conference. Said organizer Elise Mattheson, "Who are all these people? I've never seen most of them before." Although only 30 people had preregistered, over 120 attended the conference.

Kaahumanu, ex-housewife, former Little League mother and one-time vice-presidential candidate chronicled the history of the bi movement (from a San Francisco perspective), stories of struggle and success, and her own personal coming out story. A key activist in the movement for bisexual liberation, Kaahumanu began her activist career as a lesbian feminist, and continues to work within the lesbian and gay community.

Following the keynote address was a reception to honor the bi-identified artists whose work was exhibited as part of the conference. The works were in various media, including paint and fabric. Curious about what, if any, implications a bi identity might have on an artist's view and representation of the world, I posed this question to Russ Stevens, a young artist with brown hair, brown eyes and a shy smile. His work was a series of what he called "figurative portraits."

Steven's work, with dark blues and greens, muted edges and shadowed figures seemed to blur the boundaries between self and other, male and female, light and dark. "I look into other people's eyes," he said, "and even when I do a portrait of someone else, it's still a portrait of myself." He feels that being able to identify erotically with both sexes "expands the possibilities for representation."

The next morning began with a plenary session for all conference participants. The planning committee, which represented a range of physical abilities, ages and ethnic backgrounds introduced itself, and also introduced the few people who were attending from areas of the country other than the Midwest. I spoke briefly about the history and composition of Philadelphia's bi community.

Immediately after the plenary session, I appeared on a panel with Kathleen Bernhoft and Lani Kaahumanu entitled, "Bisexuality and Feminism." We had met beforehand, and

discovered that the three of us represented German, Jewish and Hawaiian backgrounds, ranged in age from 27 to 48 and lived on the East Coast, West Coast and in the Midwest. This panel attracted approximately half of the conference participants, as there was only one other session scheduled for that time slot.

After the session was formally over, five of us met in one of the designated "overflow" rooms, which had been set aside for those wishing to either continue discussions from workshops, or discuss topics not covered in the conference.

Unfortunately, I had to leave right after this overflow session, and so missed the rest of the conference, which included a workshop on sex toys for women and men presented by former Philadelphia lesbian activist Janet Wildlife, perhaps best known for being the driving force behind Women's Erotica Night in 1989. Also a former president of Labyrinth, the Philadelphia Women's Newspaper (of which I am also a proud alumna), Wildlife also wrote entertainment columns for Philadelphia Gay News. Sorry I missed you, Janet.

— from *BiFocus* (Philadelphia). Reprinted with permission.

1994 International Bisexual Conference!



1994 will be a banner year for all Queer Nationals in NYC. It is the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riot that started the Gay Liberation Movement as we know and love it, a major celebration in its own right. Additionally, NYC will be hosting the Gay Games, the international sporting event held in a different City/Country every four years. This means that Queer folks from all over the world will be converging on our fair city.

Knowing that no-one in the bisexual community would want to miss these spectacular events, as well as a great opportunity to (visibly) party down, we have arranged to have our conference here as well! Yes, people, NYC is the host city for the 1994 International Bisexual Conference.

The first general planning meeting for this event was held Sunday February 16, 1992. We need bisexual people and their friends who are interested in working on this event to come help get it started. We need people for every conceivable position from executive committees to people who just want to send checks and not be bothered with the details. No matter how much or how little you think you can contribute, you are needed, every-

Creating Change continues on next page



Some sources for this issue of BiWomen:

The Center Times, the monthly newsletter of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Center, 338 Newbury, 2nd floor, Boston, MA 02115. Phone (617) 247-2927.

BiLines, the newsletter of the Wellington (Australia) Bisexual Women's Group, P.O. Box 5145, Wellington, Australia.

BBMN News, the newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Men's Network, 338 Newbury St., 202, Boston, MA 02115.

BiFrost, a monthly newsletter for bisexuals. P.O. Box 117, Norwich, NR1 2SU. £3-£6.50/year (12 issues).

BiFocus, the newsletter for Philadelphia's bisexual community. Subscriptions, \$12/4 issues (more if/less if) P.O. Box 30372, Philadelphia, PA, 19103

Options, Rhode Island's Lesbian and Gay Newspaper. For a free subscription, discreetly mailed, send your name and address to Options, P.O. Box 27444, Providence, RI 02907.

National NOW Times. Subscriptions: \$35/year (6 issues), 1000 16th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington D.C. 20036-5705.



thing helps. Remember: without you we're nothing!

This organization is open to all members of our community — everyone is most sincerely invited to come, contribute their talents and work together in harmony.

To get more information about the ad-hoc committee for the 1994 International Bisexual Conference, contact Efrain J. Gonzalez, 392 First St., Brooklyn, NY 11215, (718) 499-5517.



In the Mail from Our Friends in Britain:

Conference Update

After a day of near nervous collapse, when the original date for the conference fell through, we now have an absolute, cast in steel, guaranteed date and venue:

The University of East Anglia, Norwich
Friday-Sunday, 28-30 August, 1992
(with early registration on Thursday)

In compensation for the mix up over the dates, the venue has much improved the facilities they are making available to us. If anything the conference should now be even better than we had first planned.

There will be plenty of both crash accommodation, and bed and breakfast accommodation available at the venue; there is even a campsite within three miles of the University. Meals at the various outlets on campus are cheap, and we are arranging for there to be a range of vegetarian and vegan meals available. Needless to say there are also several bars, although the beer is not as cheap as it might be, non-alcoholic drinks are a lot cheaper.

The supporting registration drive has been very successful, and we would like to thank everyone who gave their money early. Thanks, we couldn't have done it without you! For those of you that haven't registered yet, the registration fees are as follows:

**** Note these rates are in British pounds! ****

For all three days:

unwaged/income under £5000	£12.
income £5000 to £10,000	£15.
for each £1000 over £10,000	add £1.50

The maximum registration fee payable is £60. Daily registration is at half these rates per day.

If you wish to register to attend the 1992 Bisexual Conference, please send your money and the registration form (below) to BICON, c/o BiFrost, P.O. Box 117, Norwich, NR1 2SU.

We'll be seeing you.

Giles

For BICON

REGISTRATION FORM FOR 10TH U.K. CONFERENCE – 28-30 AUGUST 1992

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Days attending: Fri Sat Sun

Amount paid: _____ Please make checks and money orders payable (in £) to BICON.

Please indicate if you object to your name and address being held on computer. This information will be used only by the organisers of this and the next U.K. Bisexual Conference.

Do you require any of the following?

- ☐ Sign language interpretation (BSL)
- ☐ Documents in Braille/on tape (Please tell us as early as possible)
- ☐ Use of the [day nursery]. Please tell us the names and ages of any children you bring with you.

☐ Crash accommodation. Please come prepared to sleep on a carpeted floor.

Please tell us if you have any other special needs: _____

If you would like to run a workshop yourself, please give us a working title for your workshop: We will contact you later for more details. _____


Can you help us with the conference by volunteering your time and experience with any of the following?

- ☐ First Aid ☐ Interpreting BSL ☐ Counselling ☐ Working in Day Nursery
- ☐ Running ☐ Working on the Registration Desk

When you register by post, please ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE so we can confirm your booking and send you further details of the conference.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

▼
Ongoing Events
(continued from
page 12)

Tuesdays
 **Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual
Freedom Trail Band
Rehearsals.** Concert and
marching band, no auditions.
7:30-9:30pm. Location and
info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

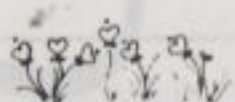
Tuesdays in April
(7, 14 and 21 only)
Everyday Resistance, a
workshop for timid writers,
7-9pm. Bring paper and
pencil for exercises,
including letters, journal
writing, free writing, and
more. Free. At the Women's
Center, 46 Pleasant St.,
Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-
8807.

**First and Third
Thursdays**
Bisexual Issues Rap Group
at the New Haven, Conn.,
Women's Liberation Center,
614 Orange St., New Haven.
Info: (203) 776-2658.

Third Thursday
**Incest Survivors Facilitated
Meeting**, 7:30-9:30pm.
Topics - April 16:
Confronting Family
Memories. May 21: Body
Image. Free. At the Women's
Center, 46 Pleasant St.,
Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-
8807.

**Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual
Speakers Bureau** meets 8-
10pm at **THE CENTER**.
Info: (617) 354-0133.

Fridays
Mother's Support Group,
10:30am-noon. Child care
provided. Free. At the
Women's Center, 46
Pleasant St., Cambridge.
Info: (617) 354-8807.



CALENDAR, from page 12

June 5-7 ♦ Friday-Sunday
Women Outdoors National Gathering at Sargent Camp
in Peterborough, N.H. Info: Deb at (203) 747-4484.

June 12-14 ♦ Friday-Sunday
BiFest 1992. Details to come in the next issue of
BiWomen.

June 13 ♦ Saturday
BOSTON PRIDE!



Annual Pre-Pride Bi Brunch. Volunteers needed for set-
up and clean-up. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

June 19 ♦ Friday
Pride: Concord, N.H.

Subscribe to BiWomen!

To start a new subscription
or renew your current one,
fill out the form below.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

- ☐ New subscription
☐ Renewal

Check one:

- ☐ No income:
\$0-9, sliding scale
☐ Low income: \$10
☐ Regular member: \$18
☐ Goddess-in-Training: \$30
☐ Goddess: \$50
☐ Matron Saint (WOW!): \$100

*Send this form along with your
check to:*

BBWN
338 Newbury Street, 202
Boston, MA 02115

June 20 ♦ Saturday
**Pride: Hartford, Conn, New Hampshire (state),
Pittsburgh, Penn. [Bi is in the name!], Providence, R.I.,
and Cape Cod, Mass.**

June 26-29 ♦ Friday-Monday
National N.O.W. Conference in Chicago, Ill. Info: (202)
331-0066.

June 2 ♦ Sunday
New York Pride!



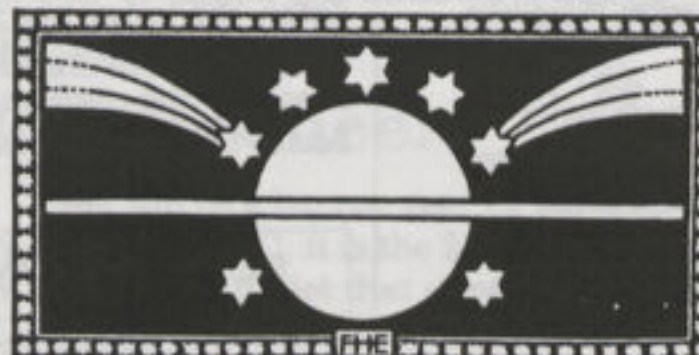
July 24-26 ♦ Friday-Sunday
Overnight weekend in Plymouth being planned. Details to
come in next issue of BiWomen.

August 28-30 ♦ Friday-Sunday
The Tenth U.K. National Bisexual Conference,
University of East Anglia, Norwich, England. Info: BiFrost,
P.O. Box 117, Norwich NR1 2SU. (Details on page 9.)

Looking Way Ahead . . .

April 25, 1993 ♦ Sunday
**The 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and
Bi. Equal Rights and Liberation.** (See story page 1.)

June 1994
Stonewall 25 Celebration in NYC. During the last week
of June. Lots of conferences, events, etc., including a bi
conference! (See article, page 8.)



Looking for Spring Cuddle-buddies

I am looking to build creative,
intimate relationships with womyn
and eventually exploring my/our
sexuality. I communicate well, strive
to be honest, humorous and light. I
am attractive, 37, single mom, a
survivor, educator, social activist.
I am presently non-monogamous.
No one-night stands, no drugs/
alcohol, no scenes. Yes to open
conversations, messages, sleep-
overs and play time. Flexibility and
patience will bring their own
rewards. What the heck! Give me a
call, Ginny 864-3404.

From OUTLOOK mag to CNN, everyone wants to know:

WHAT DO BISEXUALS WANT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE WANT? ANYTHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU WANT? WE DOUBT IT.

WE'RE FED UP WITH BEING SET-UP --

- we're fed up with rhetorical bi-baiting questions and ignorant assumptions. We're fed up with fearful responses to our coming out and articulating our identity and politics and with being ridiculed with "The Bisexual Question" or "What Do Bi's Want?" Framing it in such a way evokes those old patriarchs Sigmund Freud and Karl Marx, who knew full well what women wanted. They also knew why they posed it that way. This is similar to another infamous socialist turn-of-phrase, "The Black Question." There is no question about including all women or all blacks. It's men's hegemony and white behavior we should focus on. So we address the question back to you. "Why are you so threatened by our coming out among you? And how can we get through it and fight for a world free of homophobia, woman-hatred, racism and AIDS so we're all free to love as we please?"

We're FED UP WITH BEING SET-UP --

- with comments from the last March on Washington organizing meeting that "we're ready for bi's maybe but not transgenderal people," and with recent headlines like this from GCN:

'93 March on D.C. to include bi's, but not disabled

that pit groups against each other rather than unify. The April 93 March on Washington for Lesbian/Gay/Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, with its 50% racial/gender parity, is catalyzing a new revolutionary inclusionary process in our movement, in our community. This process is to be praised and encouraged, not ridiculed! And we're all only temporarily able-bodied, remember. Disabled people are bi too, transgenderal people are lesbian, gay, and bi. We all need support and deserve inclusion. We need to march together in all our glorious diversity to defend our rights in 93! (There will be more attempts to divide us, you can be sure.)

We're FED UP WITH BEING SET-UP --

- The Lambda Book Awards (the Lammys) do not have any categories for books that embrace women's and men's issues jointly - whether they be bi or otherwise. The result is that books like BI ANY OTHER NAME: Bisexual People Speak Out (nominated this year for a Lammy), get stuck in inappropriate categories like the Lesbian Anthologies one they put it in. This not only pits us against lesbian writers and confuses the issue of lesbian space, (which we support and defend), it also is inappropriate. BI ANY OTHER NAME includes stories by men. The result: already tense relations between lesbians and bis are exacerbated (one judge has withdrawn), rather than creating a situation where there's enough space for all, enough categories to express all our diversities.

Let's create enough awards, categories, opportunities and encouragement for everyone to flourish and shine. We can do it. We deserve it. We owe ourselves nothing less.

-by Lorraine Hutchins and Lani Ka'akumanu with inspiration from Robyn Ochs, Carol Queen, and Elias Farajajo-Jones.
-distributed at the OUTWRITE 3rd National Lesbian & Gay Writers Conference, Boston, MA 3/21/92

CALENDAR

THE CENTER
is the Lesbian, Gay and
Bisexual Community Center,
338 Newbury Street, 202,
Boston, MA 02115.

◆
May 25
Monday:
BBWN
Volunteer
Night

Help stuff the June / July issue of BiWomen! See old friends, make new ones. It really is fun, especially when a lot of women show up! You can read BiWomen hot off the press! The more women who help, the faster it goes.

**PLEASE
PLAN ON
HELPING
STUFF THE
JUNE/JULY
ISSUE! Mark it
in your
datebook now!**



6-10pm at **THE CENTER**.

Ongoing
Mondays in April
(6, 13, 20, 27)
Time Limited Group:
Assessing Your Therapy.
First-come, first-served basis. Facilitated by a therapist. 6:30-8pm. Free. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Tuesdays
Bisexual Women's Rap Group, 7:30-10pm. Topics - April 7: Is It Love? April 14: Reproductive Rights. April 21: Coming Out Stories. April 28: Sex. Free. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-8807.

More ongoing events on page 10



April 4 ◆ Saturday
Lesbian/Gay/Bi Swing & Ballroom Dance with live music by Cheek to Cheek swing orchestra. 8:15pm-midnight; Swing dance lesson 8:15-9pm. Smoke-/alcohol-free. Casual attire. No partner necessary. Admission \$6. At the Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square, Cambridge. Info: (617) 629-2219.

April 5 ◆ Sunday
March on Washington for Women's Lives, a march for abortion rights and reproductive freedom, 10am assembly at the Ellipse (White House/Constitution Ave.). 12 noon step-off and march to the Mall, followed by rally. Info: Massachusetts N.O.W. (617) 876-2420.

Bi Space, 8-10pm. A friendly rap space to meet other bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. A \$2 donation is requested. Room 204 at **THE CENTER**. Info: (617) BIS-NOTE.

April 6 ◆ Monday
BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30pm. A safe place for women who want to learn more about bisexuality - myths, theories, experiences - and to connect with the bi community. All women welcome! At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge.

April 11 ◆ Saturday
BBWN Potluck Brunch, noon. Near Central Square, Cambridge. Info and directions: (617) 247-6683; leave a message, we will call you back.

Biversity Film Series will commence with a showing of *Frida*, the life of Mexican bisexual painter Frida Kahlo, 6pm. Donation requested to cover cost of room. At **THE CENTER**.

April 16 ◆ Thursday
I Read It on a Wall Somewhere, women's graffiti slideshow and discussion on local graffiti as it relates to women and girls. Political, international graffiti also discussed. Free. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-8807.

April 18 ◆ Saturday
Monthly Bi Brunch, 10:45am. At Au Bon Pain in Harvard Square, Cambridge. Next to Harvard T stop on Red Line.

April 25 ◆ Saturday
BBWN Goes to the Movies. At Laura P.'s house. 7:30pm is "popcorn and pillow time" (please bring a pillow for comfortable floor-sitting). Films will include "Thelma and Louise," "The Sensual World" (a music video by Kate Bush), and others Info: (617) 247-6683.

1992 Take Back the Night, Take Back Our Lives March, New Haven, Conn. Info: Jen at (203) 776-2658.

April 26 ◆ Sunday
Biversity Boston Planning Meeting, 8-10pm. Open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities.

April 28 ◆ Tuesday
Getting the Word Out. Telling our self-defense success stories. 7-9pm. An evening of empowerment. Free. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-8807.

May 1-2 ◆ Friday-Saturday
AMBI (the Alliance of Multicultural Bisexuals, a political action and education group based in the Washington, D.C. area) sponsors a **working conference on multicultural and sexual diversity.** At St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 1772 Church St. NW, Washington, D.C. (near Dupont Circle). Info: AMBi, P.O. Box 2764, Silver Spring, MD 20915.

May 3 ◆ Sunday
Bi Space. (See April 5.)



May 8 ◆ Friday
BiWomen SUBMISSION DEADLINE! Send those submissions in early!

May 9 ◆ Saturday
Country/Western & Swing Dance with live music by the Jackie Lee Williams Band, 8:15pm-midnight. Texas two-step lesson 8:15-9pm. Smoke-/alcohol-free. Casual attire. No partner necessary. Admission \$6. At the Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square, Cambridge. Info: (617) 629-2219.

May 17 ◆ Sunday
Pride: Washington, D.C.



May 23 ◆ Saturday
BBWN Potluck Brunch, noon. Ann G.'s house. Near Davis and Porter Squares in Somerville. Info: (617) BIS-NOTE.

May 25 ◆ Monday
BBWN Volunteer Night. Help stuff the BiWomen newsletter. (See sidebar, this page.)

May 29-31 ◆ Friday-Sunday
BiNet National Conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

June 1 ◆ Monday
BBWN Intro Meeting. (See April 6.)

June 6 ◆ Saturday
Pride: Montpelier, VT, and Philadelphia, Penn. [Bi is in the name!].

Lesbian/Gay/Bi Swing & Ballroom Dance, season finale with live music by Cheek to Cheek swing orchestra. 8:15pm-midnight; Swing dance lesson 8:15-9pm. Smoke-/alcohol-free. Casual attire. No partner necessary. Admission \$6. At the Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square, Cambridge. Info: (617) 629-2219.

CALENDAR continues on page 10

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

BiNet National Meeting

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**Printed on
recycled paper**

BiNet Meeting in Minneapolis July 24-26, 1992

The Bisexual Connection will host a National Meeting of BiNet USA — the national bisexual network in formation.

Interested activists from around the United States will meet on the weekend of July 24-26, 1992, at the Playwrights' Center, 2301 Franklin Avenue East, in Minneapolis to continue the work of bringing a National Bisexual Network/Organization into full reality. Among the areas to be discussed will be structure, finances, national publication, organizing, multi-cultural issues, organizing locally and regionally, and setting a national agenda. The conference will focus on these issues and others in discussion and decision-making formats as opposed to being workshop oriented. Registration is \$25-60 on a sliding scale and scholarships will be provided for those in need and as funding permits. The Playwrights' Center is wheelchair accessible. Child care will be provided if arranged in advance. Limited food available at the conference. Limited housing for out-of-towners available. Community resource information on lodging and food will be provided.

We ask that proposals for the setting up of the national organization be submitted as far in advance of the conference as possible. Our intention is get all proposals properly printed and sent out to interested parties in advance of



the meeting. This will help us all to accomplish as much as possible during the proceedings.

If you are interested in attending the conference, please fill in the form on page 6 and send it to: Gary Lingen — Local Coordinator of BiNet Conference — at Bisexual Connection, P.O. Box 13158, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414. or you can phone Gary for more information at (612) 488-1009. ↘

BiNet Registration Info on page 6

BiFocus

This issue's BiFocus consists of excerpts from the March 23, 1992, edition of "Say It, Sister!," a weekly radio broadcast every Wednesday, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm., on the MIT radio station WMBR in Cambridge, 88.1 FM ("First on your FM dial!").

Our own Laura Perez interviewed Mia Anderson, a Jamaican Bisexual, and Marcia Gomes, an African-American Lesbian, about being women of color who are lesbian or bisexual.

Thanks to Laura for conducting the interview, to Mia and Marcia for participating, to the women who keep the show running, and to Arturo and Tim for transcribing the show.

Laura Perez: It seems there are a lot of queer issues making the headlines lately. . . . [In the mainstream media], is all this attention on queer issues now still being focused on white, middle-class, gay men? How do we, as women of color and lesbians and bisexuals, fit into the picture?

Mia Anderson: I think at this time, presently we really don't fit into the picture, and I think

BiFocus continues on page 8

BBWN News

Honor Roll

Annie S.
Rebecca K.
Robyn O.
Michelle H.
Laura P.
Doreen A.
Gail Z.
Claire M.
Anna W.
Ginny
Ann G.
Susan S.
Kathleen H.
Marcia D.
Laura S.
Susan R.
Stephanie B.



BiWomen is published
bi-monthly.

Editors:

Kathleen Hepburn
Susan Schiefelbein

All-Star Contributors:

Laura Perez
Marcia Deihl
[Redacted]
Robyn Ochs
Loraine Hutchins
Kathleen Hepburn
Laura Sachs
Susan Rooney
Stephanie Berger
[Redacted]
Val Nelson

BiFest '92

The good news from Boston is that there WILL be a BiFest '92 happening on Boston Pride weekend (June 12-14). So start making plans to attend and spread the word in your local network. The tentative agenda is as follows:

FRIDAY - June 12:

5:30pm — Dinner at Mississippi's Restaurant
735 Huntington Ave. in Boston. We will start at 5:30, but drop in whenever you get there.

7:00-11:30pm — Movies with Bisexual Characters & Erotic Story Telling

At the Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston. Longwood/Hospital stop on the E branch of the Green Line. Just a short walk from Mississippi's.


SATURDAY - June 13:

8:30-11:00am — BBWN Annual Pride Brunch

At the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston. Copley stop on the Green Line.

11:30am — Boston Gay Pride Parade and Celebration

The bi groups will meet under the steaming

 **DEADLINE** for the
Aug/Sept. issue:
Friday, July 10, 1992

All submissions in writing, please, and include a name and phone number if possible. **If you do not want your name published, please tell us!** Otherwise we will assume that you do not mind being listed as a contributor. **You may contribute anonymously, or just use your first name if you wish.** Send articles, calendar entries, letters, art, news and views to:

BiWomen, BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

kettle at Government Center. Government Center stop on the Green and Blue Lines.

Saturday Night — Bi Boogie

We will choose a mixed gender gay dance in town and go there as a visible bisexual group. Location of the dance To Be Announced.

SUNDAY - June 14:

10:00am — Bagel Brunch

At the Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston, Longwood Hospital stop on the E branch of the Green Line.

10:45am-2:00pm — Workshops on Bisexuality (Two sessions)

Tentative list includes: "Bisexual Parents", "Bisexual People of Color", "Coming Out", "Sex Radicalism", "Bisexual Activism", and "Relationships." If you would like to help facilitate one of these workshops or have a suggestion of your own, contact Biversity Boston at 617-247-6683.

2:00pm — Closing

Announcements, acknowledgments, and tearful good-byes (and good Bis).



BBWN Financial Statement



Year ending 12/31/91	
Balance forward 1/1/91:	\$3,803.20
Expenses:	
Postage	\$1616.67
Printing	\$3,035.67
Phone	\$77.30
Supplies	\$233.51
Merchandise	\$239.00
Advertising	\$110.00
Taxes pd.	\$56.00
Room rental	\$35.00
Mailbox rental	\$39.00
Misc.	\$24.28
	\$5,466.43
Income:	
Dues/subscriptions	\$3,071.49
Ad. revenue	\$60.00
Merchandise sold	\$428.85
Interest	\$137.36
Misc.	\$2.16
	\$3,699.86
Balance as of 6/30/91:	<u>\$2,036.63</u>

[Submitted 4/1/92 by Robyn Ochs, Treasurer]

Letters

Hello!

I really enjoyed the April/May issue, I've been getting the newsletter since I met some of your members at a workshop in Toronto in 1987. I've never paid you as I am a starving struggling student over here [in England], but I am always

very interested to read what's going on, even though I can never attend any of the events. I've declared myself bisexual since I was 14; I'm now 21 and still bi in sentiment if less so in practice. I think this is because I made a conscious decision to get out of the ghettoized lesbian scene where my bi'ness was tolerated but never welcomed. Now I'm in a predominantly straight scene where I find it next to impossible to express any feelings I have for women for fear of scaring them away or losing friends! So my relationships are mostly with men, which is fine but I wish I had the CHOICE. It seems like there are lots of truly BI communities in North America, maybe when I move back over there (I'm Canadian) I will find somewhere where I can be totally comfortable being me.

Best wishes for BBWN!

Sincerely,
Alison Murray



Dear BiWomen,

Thank you for scaring me out of my wits with Marilyn Murphy's bi-bashing trash [*BiWomen*, Apr/May 1992, Vol. 10, No. 3]. Enclosed is a copy of my response. I got the address from the library. It might be helpful to other readers if you print the address so they too can respond, even belatedly. If we do not speak up, this hate-monger will keep trying to speak for us.

Love,
Laura R. Loomis

Reprint of response follows:

Resources for Feminist Research
252 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1V6
Canada

Dear Editors,

I read Marilyn Murphy's article trashing bisexual women ("Thinking About Bisexuality," vol. 19, #3/4) with disbelief. I am equally dismayed that it was included in an issue on "Confronting Heterosexuality." That makes about as much sense as an article on Asians in an issue on "Confronting Whiteness."

Murphy's "thinking" can only be understood

in terms of the ancient patriarchal dichotomy that divides the world into two boxes: "the good guys, people just like me" and "the bad guys, or, those poor sick souls who don't even know they're unhappy." Everyone must fit into one of these boxes; I call it The Great Boxing Match.

In our heterosexist culture, the "good guys" box is awarded to heterosexuals, the "bad guys" box to everyone else. People who do not fit the heterosexual mold — lesbians, gay men — suffer prejudice and discrimination accordingly. The basis of this oppression is not, as Murphy claims, the refusal of lesbians to relate to men; rather, it is their affirmative sexual relation to women. Women who do not relate sexually to men or women are considered acceptable and even morally superior (e.g. nuns).

Murphy states that she does not "accept the premise that bisexual women are penalized in straight society." What a shame that our oppression does not depend on her "acceptance" of it! Bisexuals lose our jobs, homes, children and front teeth as often as "real" lesbians. I personally have had my life threatened by gay-bashers. If Murphy does not think this is being penalized, I will happily direct them to her home next time.

Murphy's rationale for this alleged lack of oppression is that many heterosexual men find bisexual women sexy. In the X-rated theater, maybe, but ask any male homophobe if he'd want his wife or girlfriend to be bisexual. Ask him if he'd want a bisexual woman going to his church or teaching his children.

Murphy uses the same patriarchal dichotomy, merely reversing the boxes. Now lesbians are the "good guys," and any non-lesbian woman is one of the "bad guys," or at least a mindless robot just "doing what she was socialized to do." This is nonsense: no one is socialized to be bisexual. No one could be, because bisexuals manage to be even more invisible than lesbians. Bisexuals are boxed in on both sides by attempts to define us out of existence.

While heterosexuals try to stuff bisexuals into the lesbian box, Murphy is busily cramming us into the heterosexual box. This is a departure from most lesbian bi-bashers, who keep trying to drag us into the lesbian box, telling us we are lesbians who just haven't come out of the closet yet. Murphy states that lesbians who hold that view are "protective" toward bisexuals; a more accurate term would be "condescending," like the heterosexual who tells lesbians they're "just going through a phase." It is true that some women pass through bisexuality as a path to lesbianism; it is also true that some women pass through lesbianism as a path to bisexuality. Human lives have an

Letters continue on next page



Support Group for Married Women

An informal, discreet support group for lesbian and bisexual women married to men. We could talk about anything from rearing children to what it's like being married and gay. You may also bring your children. For more information, write to BBWN at P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140.

Letters, from preceding page

obnoxious way of not fitting into boxes: they're real, and fluid, and constantly unfolding.

Another means of defining bisexuals out of existence is to define "bisexual," as Murphy suggests at one point, as "attracted to men and women with equal intensity." So if someone is attracted to one sex 51% of the time, she's not bisexual? How does one quantify "intensity," anyway?

Murphy has come up with a new twist on The Great Boxing Match, defining bisexuals as "the only true heterosexuals." According to her, female-female relationships do not count because of "the possibility of a chosen heterosexual tomorrow," although apparently our female-male relationships are not negated by the possibility of a woman-loving tomorrow.

Murphy calls this a paradox. I call it a pair o' box. While she says bisexuals shouldn't expect lesbians to accept us as part of the community, my own experience is that there are plenty of realistic and loving lesbians who have abandoned The Great Boxing Match. After all, there is nothing new, original or avant garde about adopting the same old oppressive dichotomies. If we wish to end our mutual oppression (rather than pointing fingers, arguing who's more oppressed, and/or recreating the old oppressive models within our own community), it's time to work together to

create a new way to deal with one another. One where nobody has to feel like she's just been battered in a boxing match.

Yours in sisterhood,

Laura R. Loomis

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

Dear Kathleen and Susan,

I was happy to meet the bi group at OutWrite ['92, the 3rd National Lesbian and Gay Writers Conference] and to buy back copies of your newsletter. Thought you'd like to see my new titles from Women's Press, including one (Cold Steal) with a bi heroine.

You can see some of these titles at Glad Day Books [673 Boylston St., Boston].

Best Wishes,

Carole Spearin McCauley

Her books:

• Cold Steal (Women's Press, England) — Murder in Medical research, set in New Haven, Conn., and featuring a feisty bi heroine

• Happenthing In Travel On (Daughter's Inc., USA; Women's Press) — A Wilderness survival adventure; seven women survive a winter plane crash

• The Honesty Tree (Frog in the Well, San Francisco) — A novel of Lesbian and Gay Rights in the Berkshires

Anyone care to write a review for our BiWomen readers? — K&S

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

Dear BBWN,

I want to encourage W.B. [BiWomen, April/May, 1992], and all bisexual women, who want to "find a nice man and 'settle down'" while still maintaining their sexual identity not to give up — we're out there. I too would like to meet a "nice woman" and settle down. As a bisexual male I too can understand the need to stay in touch with and nourish that part of myself that yearns for intimacy with another male. If I can understand that about myself, why shouldn't I understand it about another?

Call me a dreamer. What would we be without our dreams? I hope that one day my dreams will come true. If you are like-minded I'd like to hear from you. [If you send BiWomen a blank, stamped envelope we can pass your letter along.] This is a fundamental issue that faces many of us.

Mike




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artwork, rants and comics especially welcome




Correction . . .

. . . regarding the photo in the January/February issue

is ALSO a Boston-area contributor to *BI ANY OTHER NAME*. She did a great piece in the political section, "Beyond Defense: Considering next steps for bisexual liberation."

- Loraine Hutchins

Yard Sale June 20!

Laura S. is having a yard sale, 9am-6pm June 20 (rain date June 21).

**Tremendously
good stuff —
cheap!**

33 George St.
Newton (off Center
St., exit 17 off of
Mass. Tpk.).

Remember, buy
something for Dad
— it's Father's Day!
For more info:
965-5631.

Iowa City Bi Women's Group Growing

The Iowa City Bisexual Women's Support Group has been meeting consistently since September of 1991 at the Women's Resource and Action Center (WRAC). There were five women in the original group, and it has been growing slowly but steadily; weekly meeting size varies. The group was founded in 1990, at which point it met for roughly one school year, then became dormant. The Bisexual People's Support Group, affiliated with the Gay People's Union has been dormant for several years, leaving the Support Group as the only Bi-specific organization in town, although Bis are included in some other groups.

Creating a more active role and a larger bi community are made more difficult by school pressures; at various times, the group is primarily students, but this is subject to change. Our first event was a potluck, attended by about fifteen bi women and supporters. We are planning future events, including more social occasions and activist activities. The main purpose of the group is to provide support and a safe space for bi women, as well as an arena for discussion and organizing. There is a definite need to do more outreach and we want more contact with other groups both in this area and nationally. We are hoping to have a bimonthly brunch or dance, possibly an end of finals bi-blowout, a delegation at Pride, and to begin to utilize the computer bulletin board where there is a lot of active discussion on lesbigay organizing and issues. Our group can be reached at the University of Iowa Women's Resource and Action Center, 130 N. Madison St., Iowa City, IA 52242. If you're in the area, join us! Please contact us at the WRAC. ▼

Advertise in BiWomen!

For only \$10 per issue, your message will reach over 700 subscribers. Save \$5 and advertise in three issues for \$25.

Send your business-card sized ad and a check to:

**BiWomen, c/o BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140**

Such a deal!

Valley Bisexual Network

The Valley Bisexual Network (VBN) of Western Mass. is being revived after a one year hiatus. We are based in the Amherst-Northampton area, now called Lesbianville, USA, by the *National Enquirer* and some proud residents. In any case, there are bisexuals out here too, and we're building community.

Of course, we've been part of the larger lesbian/gay community all along out here, despite some people's best efforts to kick us out. The many controversies that have gone on out here have been noted in *BiWomen* and some national gay publications. I can certainly vouch for the level of intensity that has made us famous. Many bisexuals have gotten burnt out by this and we have needed to build strength among ourselves. A few women's discussion groups have begun. That has given some of us the strength to attend some community meetings that led to a vote on the pride march title. We also posted flyers to get people out to vote.

Right now, reforming the VBN feels like a huge task, with so many bi's having retreated from politics, but I know this is worth the effort. In fact, I can't stop myself from making the effort. Community-building is too important.

Awareness of bisexuals' existence within the queer community is gaining ground out here already. It's becoming more common to see "lesbian/gay/bisexual" as opposed to "lesbian/gay" events and organizations. But the discussions continue, in committee meetings, in our newspapers, in workshops, and anywhere where two queers are in the same room. The Pride March will be interesting with so much tension in the air. I hope to write an article about it afterwards, including the process that led up to it.

Someday we will all realize that diversity within communities must be embraced or we will not have communities, because we are not clones, and we don't want to be conformists! It feels too good to be free. If we learn one thing about the Rodney King tragedy, I hope it's that we must all drop our weapons against any one who is different from us. OK, I'll get off of my soapbox.

What I'm really trying to say is, we hope you will join or support the VBN by sending your name, address, telephone number, and any donation possible to: VBN, P.O. Box 775, Northampton, MA 01061-0775.

- Val Nelson ▼



REGISTER BELOW FOR THE BiNET ANNUAL MEETING:

DATE: July 24-26, 1992

LOCATION: The Playwrights' Center, 2301 Franklin Ave. E, Minneapolis, MN 55406. This is in the Seward neighborhood, near the Cedar-Riverside area.

HOUSING: A limited amount of free housing is available on a first-come-first-served basis. Other housing is available at the very queer-friendly Holiday Inn Metrodome near the Playwrights' Center (612) 333-4646. (Initial reports that we might be able to stay at the Center were soundly contradicted by their insurance company).

SCHEDULE: Friday, registration/check-in/hand-out materials to review/confirm housing 5-10p.m. and welcoming gathering. Saturday and Sunday, meetings, ending early Sunday evening. Social on Saturday night. A more detailed schedule will be available later.

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT: The #7 bus passes right by the Playwrights' Center. Taxis will cost about \$10-15. Detailed transportation info is available from the BiConnection.

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

The BiConnection, P.O. Box 13158, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Co-coordinators for the conference are Gary Lingen (612) 488-1009 and Lou Hoffman (612) 788-3702 (she's the new head of the BiConnection).

FOOD: Snacks and tide-you-overs will be provided, but BiNet will not be able to provide the main meals this year. There are many eating places near the Center, including a natural food restaurant.

A MAJOR FOCUS OF THIS YEAR'S MEETING WILL BE
BiNET'S STRUCTURE.

Please mail structure proposals to the BiConnection ahead of time, so they can be copied and distributed.

ALSO, please bring any materials to add to the information packets which BiNet is trying to compile. These packets are on: *How to Start a Bisexual Group*, *Multi-cultural/Multi-ethnic Outreach Techniques*, *HIV/AIDS in the Bisexual Community*, *How to Organize a Conference*, *Campus Organizing*, *Organizing Political Action*, *Media Work*

Please bring info on bi paraphernalia and how to get it.

REGISTER FOR BiNET's ANNUAL MEETING, JULY 24-26, IN MINNEAPOLIS, MN.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ ☐ I will need housing (please bring a sleeping bag)

I am part of a group w/ _____

☐ Our group wishes to be housed together, if possible

Housing must be:

☐ wheelchair accessible ☐ smoke free ☐ pet free

☐ I will need childcare. # children _____ Age(s) _____

☐ I will need a sign language interpreter. ☐ I am a sign language interpreter, and will assist as needed.

\$ _____ enclosed for registration. No one refused registration for lack of funds. Pre-registration is \$25-60 sliding scale. Please make checks payable to BiNet

\$ _____ donation towards childcare (refundable if none needed).

\$ _____ donation towards a sign language interpreter (refundable if none needed).

\$ _____ donation to assist those who cannot pay the registration fee.

SEND TO: BiNet c/o The BiConnection, P.O. Box 13158, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

NEWS



Through the magic of computer networks comes the following from our friend Sharla. . .

South by Southeast Regional Conference to be held in Dallas, Sept. 19-21

Hi! Debra Dixon, new president of BiNet Dallas called last night regarding the March meeting and also gave me the latest details on the 1992 South by Southeast Regional Conference and asked that I forward it to Boston; the scoop is as follows:

Space is reserved and finalized; people and organizations have volunteered and committed to do workshops; cost is set; time is drawing near; mark your calendars — all are welcome!

Let's start with the good news — the cost is low, \$20.00 before 9/1, \$30 after 9/1. This cost includes all workshops, an event sponsored by the Imperial Sovereign Court, and a pancake breakfast before the parade.

Layout is — Friday: reception, Saturday: plenary (I'm the keynote speaker and will be speaking on the bisexual role in heterosexual and homosexual communities). Finalized workshops include: Polyfidelity; Marriage and Bisexuality; Networking in a Vacuum (meeting others in rural areas); Men's and Women's Safer Sex sponsored by the Nelson-Tobedo clinic; Bisexuality and Politics; Bisexuality and Religion; and Bisexuality: Beyond Vanilla. In addition, if there is enough interest: Tom Neal of GLAD [Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, or Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders?] will speak on discrimination. If you would like to suggest a workshop in a caucus (if there's enough interest) feel free to do so at the conference. Workshops will be Saturday (maybe one or two Sun a.m.); event Saturday evening; and pancake breakfast and pride parade Sunday morning. We are trying to check into getting a speaker, either myself or someone else, at the rally Sunday afternoon as well. Keep you posted.

The better news — no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. Of course, it is preferred that, if at all possible, everyone who is able will pay the \$20/\$30.

The not so good news — the core group here is so small that unfortunately housing can not be provided, so everyone is on their own for hotels/housing. For those needing extremely low cost housing, there is a YWCA and a YMCA here in Dallas; unfortunately there are no youth hostels. Individuals can write to the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and request a listing of local low-cost lodging. Then again, most conferences cost around \$60-80 and this is only \$20 — so perhaps a hotel room is justified — split the cost amongst two or three and it's even lower; and you have a place to get away to if necessary.

I hope to see a lot of Boston people here in September for the conference. For more information people should call (214) 504-6612. Thanks — sorry you're messages aren't getting through to me — but don't worry — I got your number. . . Sharla

And through the magic of the good ol' U.S. Postal Service comes this from our friend Marcia. . .

Lavender Alliance News

Dear BiWomen,

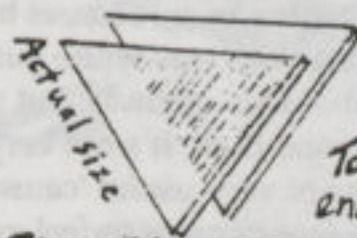
Last year at this time, I sent in a note of happiness that the Cambridge Lavender Alliance had decided to include "Bisexual" in its Pride Day Proclamation at City Hall. After the vote, a few angry people took a re-vote and rescinded it, but by then it was too late and the mayor read the proclamation containing the B-word. The re-vote involved a mass of complex issues such as bad feelings over past bisexual "pushes" in other organizations, the fact that the Lavender Alliance then had no procedural rules, and perhaps the fact that I was the sole bi at many of the meetings.

I braced for this year, when I wanted to bring up the bi-inclusive issue at the Lavender Alliance once again. The co-chair did it for me, and after a few mumbles invoking the Irish (GLIB) Pride example, people somehow magically "felt differently." Along with the fact that many of those most opposed to the B-word never attended more than one or two meetings in the past year, and, I hope, because of my loyal (codependant?) support of the group where I have made many wonderful friends, a vote was taken with a great majority voting to include "Bisexual" in the Pride Proclamation this year. Sometimes "the rock will wear away." The wisest advice I can offer is, if we don't stand up for our agenda, no one else will. And if we show up and work, only the real LAGies (Lesbian and Gay Exclusionists) are uncomfortable, and many fair-minded people see the stupidity of their prejudicial past ways.

Love and Bi,

Marcia Deihl

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New BI PRIDE jewelry pins & earrings!

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Earrings (posts): \$10 pr. (+50¢ postage) / \$9 pr.-10-29 prs / \$8-30 prs. or more

(Add \$3 postage for over 15 pc.) Make out ck. or money order to: E. Nania
52 Garrison Rd., Brookline, MA 02146 - Allow 3 weeks delivery.

A partial list of BiWomen's sources and resources:

BiNet Newsletter, a publication of the Bisexual Network of the USA. \$2 donation requested per issue. BiNet, 584 Castro St. #441, San Francisco, CA 94114-2588. Indicate if discretion is required.

off our backs
2423 18th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20009
Published monthly.
Subscriptions: \$19-\$50/yr.

Gay Community News
62 Berkeley St.
Boston, MA 02116
Published weekly.
Subscriptions: Indiv. \$39/yr.,
Institutions \$55.

BiFrost, a national monthly newsletter for Bisexuals,
P.O. Box 117, Norwich NR1
2SU, England. £6.50/yr.

Decidedly Bi, opinions and events of interest to the New York area bisexual community. A publication of the New York Area Bisexual Network (NYABN). Jaye Fox, 942 47th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219. \$10-35 sliding scale, 1 yr. (12 issues).

BiFocus, from page 1

that's one of the problems. I was watching a show on Oprah about marriages, and they focused on two men who were getting married, two white gay men who were getting married. And then they showed a picture of two women, two white women, who were getting married. Unfortunately if you were to look at daytime television which deals with a lot of queer issues, or if you were to look at movies, you would think that there were no queer people of color, unfortunately. It's very frustrating in terms of trying to find role models. And it's very frustrating because anyone who knows the history of gay liberation knows before Stonewall was done by black and Latino drag queens. Black and Latino drag queens started the Stonewall movement, but at the same time were excluded from the movement. And it's a very frustrating thing.

Marcia Gomes: I agree with you. And I think it's very important for the communities of color to know that black gay, lesbian, and bisexual men and women are out there in the community. We're working. We're active. We're mothers. We're fathers. We're teachers, lawyers, doctors. We're everywhere, and that we have been active in trying to conquer some of the problems that exist in our communities.

For the gay community at large to include us, it just seems that it would be hard for them not to, but it's happening. I'm not sure how to deal with it.

LP: I know recently Mia and I attended a dialogue that was sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Speakers Bureau. It was a dialogue between people of color and white people who are active in the queer movement. I keep calling it that. It's another way to say lesbian, gay, and bisexual. One point that Mia made, that I think is very well taken, is that when people of color is stated it is usually African-Americans, and there's no representation of Latinos or Asians or any other community that should be involved in the dialogue. We can question why that is. I know that the people who were sponsoring this event did a lot of outreach. They really made the effort. But yet I

and there was another woman I think that left who was Latina, and that was it [as far as people of color who were not African-American].

We worked it out where we had panels of people of color and panels of white people talking about what our needs are, and concerns are, and what have you. It did occur to me when the panel of people of color was forming that I could participate in that. But then again I would be like, what I like to refer to myself as (actually I don't like to refer to myself this way, but I feel that it's appropriate at times), the token bisexual Latina. Not only am I the Latino queer, but I happen to be bisexual. So we're dealing with all these other things at the same time.

I think it was a productive discussion that we had, but I think one thing that the people of color really picked up on was how difficult it was for the white people (or the Anglo people. I'm not sure how white people like to be referred to. I like to try and respect people's self-identification) — but it was very difficult for them to say what they didn't want to hear from people of color. That was the same question that the people of color were asked: "What is the thing that you never want to hear from a white activist?" For the white people, that was very difficult. They felt that it wasn't their place. It was inappropriate, that there shouldn't be anything that people of color shouldn't be able to do — that kind of attitude. I think we all felt (the people of color) that it was very frustrating. How do we get this dialogue going? How do we really try and deal with these issues? Cause it's not people of color's issue. You know, racism and the movement is not our "thang" — it's a whole community issue no matter what color or skin color or whatever you are. That was a really frustrating thing to try and deal with. Did you have any other reactions to that dialogue, Mia?

MA: I guess you gave a pretty good synopsis, Laura. I was equally as frustrated because again "people of color" was marginalized to African-Americans. And that's destructive because it separates us. It makes it a contest where people of color don't want to come to these things because they are like, "Well, it's only going to deal with African-American issues." That's a very frustrating thing, because it's supposed to be a unifying term. Also, I felt that it really wasn't getting to core issues because all it was dealing with was white guilt. And that's nice for about ten seconds, but you really need to get beyond that. It's not very productive. And it's not very useful 'cause all it does is it gives you a few minutes to feel guilty, and then lead your life as you always have. That really doesn't resolve anything.

This interview will be concluded in our next issue of BiWomen.

TELEPHONE (617) 455-6189

BET MacARTHUR, MSW LICSW
PSYCHOTHERAPY & CONSULTATION
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14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

OUT THERE

In this column we offer a sampling of many bi-relevant articles and news bits that BiWomen readers have been sending in. It's very exciting to realize that bi visibility is increasing so dramatically; yet there is still a great deal of misinformation out there. Thanks to many brave and hard-working individuals, we can indeed find positive and accurate representations of bi identity, orientation and behavior.



7 Haviland Street
Boston
Massachusetts
02115

Nina Carroll, MD
Gynecologist

617-267-0900
FAX 617-267-3667

The Devil in Miss Donohoe, Redbook magazine, February 1992 issue.

The Devil in Miss Donohoe is an unfortunate choice for the title of this article. (*The Devil in Miss Jones* is a hard-core porn movie that features a sex-crazed nymphomaniac who is bisexual only in the sense that she is so crazed she'll have sex with any warm body – another dangerous myth about bisexuals.)

The article itself is a great read if you are a fan of L.A. Law character C.J. Lamb, played by Amanda Donohoe. C.J. is described as being "outspoken, unorthodox – she favors mini-skirts and leather bomber

jackets over suits – and unabashedly bisexual." C.J. Lamb caused a stir last season when she kissed former co-counsel Abby Perkins on the lips.

Domesticated Bliss – New laws are making it official for gay or live-in straight couples. Newsweek, March 23, 1992

A quick summary of domestic partnership legislation and issues. (No mention of the b-word, but certainly relevant to those of us in relationships not recognized by the government.)

Ann Landers advice column, Boston Globe, April 26, 1992

Readers respond to the question posed specifically to homosexual readers: "Are you glad you are gay, or would you rather be straight?" Dichotomous language aside, over 75,000 people responded, with answers running 30-to-1 saying, "Yes, I'm glad I'm gay." One response that she chose to publish: "Actually, I am bisexual and choose to be so. When lucky enough to be presented by nature with two options, why not take both?"

Ask Isadora, The Village Voice, a recent issue.

In this advice column we read letters from three individuals with questions about bisexuality. One letter is from a heterosexually married woman who has strong attractions to women, but is afraid she'll ruin her family's life by coming out as bisexual. Another is from a "happily married man" who has begun to confront his bisexuality and wonders, Is it "only a cover for someone who is not ready to face the fact that they are gay?" The third letter is from a 25-year-old woman who is a virgin. She has experienced attractions to men and to women, and asks, "Am I bisexual? I'm so confused."

Columnist Isadora Alman responds:

These three letters arrived in the same day's mail. I get several of a similar nature every week. "Bisexual" is only a label, and it is open to varying interpretations. Like "confused," it is sometimes a temporary state, sometimes lifelong. Bisexuality means being capable of feeling desire for both sexes, which is probably a condition of being human for the vast majority. Whether or not you allow free reign to such fantasies and/or act on them is a matter of individual choice, which will be heavily influenced by your society's position on the matter (yes among ancient Greeks, no

Out There continues on page 11

BUTTONS!

BISEXUAL
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\$1

Bisexual
Queer

plus a stamped, self-addressed envelope
or 50¢ postage & handling

Send to: BBWN, P.O. Box 639,
Cambridge, MA 02140

Ongoing Events:

◆ Mondays:

Bisexual Alcoholics

Anonymous. 7:30-8:30pm, Mass. General Hospital, under Amphitheater (go past the Lower Amphitheater, take stairs up 3 flights). Closed speaker-discussion. Info: Harold at (617) 876-8059.

◆ Tuesdays:

Bisexual Women's Rap

Group. 7:30pm-10pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band

Rehearsals. Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

◆ Wednesdays:

Bisexual Children of

Alcoholics. 7:30pm. An Al-Anon meeting for bisexual children of alcoholics. Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to the emergency room entrance), Boston. Info: Marge at (617) 259-1559.

Women's Job Support

Network meets 6:30-8:30pm in the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge. This group is free and is a place where women can share resources/experiences, increase motivation, relieve stress, and network with contacts. Info: (617) 354-8807.



(to next page)



Bi-Mom Comes Out To Her Two Children

It was sometime in early January when I told my daughter (12) and son (15) that I am gay — a bisexual. It was not planned at the time, it just kind of happened.

I knew that I was facing surgery later that month. One can never tell what any outcome will be. I felt it was necessary for them to know who their mom really was.



CALENDAR, from page 12

July 6 ◆ Monday

BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30-9:30pm. (See June 1)

July 10 ◆ Friday

Deadline for Aug/Sept. Issue of the BBWN Newsletter! Get your fabulous stories, letters, and art in to us! Become famous!

July 11 ◆ Saturday

Biversity Boston Beach Outing at Singing Beach. Reserve the date now — watch for further information or call (617) BIS-MOVE.

July 16 ◆ Thursday

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Speakers Bureau meeting. Info: 354-0133.

July 24-26 ◆ Friday-Sunday

BiNet Conference, Minneapolis, Minn. (See p. 1 for details)

July 27 ◆ Monday

BBWN Newsletter Stuffing at Robyn's new pad! Be the first to read BiWomen hot off the press! Meet friends — come on and stuff with us! Call (617) BIS-MOVE for location and info.

August 7-9 ◆ Friday - Sunday

Bisexual Writers Retreat, near Philadelphia, Penn. \$50 per person. Contact Drew Lewis at (617) 536-5127 or write c/o BBMN, P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140.

August 8 ◆ Saturday

(Another) Biversity Boston Beach Outing at Singing Beach. Reserve the date now — watch for further information or call (617) BIS-MOVE.

August 11-16 ◆ Tuesday-Sunday

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. One to six days, \$35-205, depending on number of days, date of registration, and ability to pay. Info: WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458. (616) 757-4766 V/TTY after June 10.

August 28-30 ◆ Friday-Sunday

Tenth National Bisexual Conference, Norwich, England. Sliding scale £12 and up. Early registrants Thursday August 27. Conference Registrations, c/o BIFROST, P.O. Box 117, Norwich NR1 2SU, England.

I sat at our dining room table with Christina and told her after talking about other issues. I then called my son in — he said, "I know, I've heard about your uncle and all that stuff!" He didn't say gay or bisexual, so I repeated that part for him. He just stood there and stared at me for what seemed like the longest time, very straight-faced. So I said, "You know the button 'Better gay than grumpy'? Well, that's me." He smiled. They both knew I had been much happier for quite some time, and now they knew why.

They did not ask me many questions like I thought they would. I explained the truth about where I go many Monday nights and other occasions. I don't have to hide anything anymore.

One of their only real questions was, "Does Dad know?" Yes, he helped me get there, I explained to them. He knows and understands my needs and accepts me for who and what I am. After all, he just wants me to be happy and to see me smile!

After all, I've had enough pain and hurts throughout my childhood and adulthood. He was the only one who could help me. I had been to all kinds of groups and therapies, but he was the only person I could share such dark secrets with. It took us fifteen years to "get my head on straight." He still loves me and helps me any way he can. Last year he even pushed me in a wheelchair for Boston Pride because he knew how much it meant to me and that I could not walk it.

In the show *Herman's Head*, Herman is two parts man and one part woman — I believe Rick is two parts sensitive woman and one part man. His acceptance of me and my friends has set a great example for our children.

I know I've had bi feelings since I was very young — and young encounters too. There were no gay groups in Newton when I was growing up. I suppressed a lot, and was almost lost within myself for too many years.

I no longer worry about rejection from my children. Along with Rick, I too have come to accept myself. I'm normal, I have nothing to feel ashamed of. I hope that Christina will come to Boston Pride '92 with me — and Richard if he wants.

I'll finish by saying that it's neat that Cape Cod Pride is June 20th — that's my birthday (#41!). I'll be there.

Michelle R. Hessler



▼
(from previous page)

◆ First and Third
Thursdays

Bisexual Issues Rap Group
at the Women's Center, 614
Orange St., (corner of
Bishop) New Haven, Conn.
Please call to specify
wheelchair access or ASL
interpreting requirements.
Voice (203) 776-2658, TTY
and voice (203) 367-2381.

◆ Third Thursday of
each month:

**Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual
Speakers Bureau** meets 8-
10pm. Info: (617) 354-0133.

**Incest Survivors Facilitated
Meeting**, 7:30-9:30pm. Free.
At the Women's Center, 46
Pleasant St., Cambridge.
Info: (617) 354-8807.

◆ Fridays:

Steppin' Out on Broadway,
Country/Western dances for
Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals
and Friends. 8pm dance
lessons. 9pm-midnight:
Texas two-step, Swing, and
Line dancing. Smoke/
alcohol-free, juice bar, DJ.
Admission \$5. At "On
Broadway," 880 Broadway,
Somerville. Info: Dee at (617)
562-0294.

Out There, from page 9

among lesbian separatists), opportunity, circumstances, and personal code of conduct, to name a few factors. To sort through your options, you might want to read up on the subject. Two possibilities are *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out* (Alyson Publications) and *The Bisexual Option* (Priam Books). Book-learning can take you just so far, however. I'd suggest some face-to-face sorting out, perhaps with a counselor, perhaps in a group of others who are wrestling with the same concerns. The East Coast Bisexual Network has compiled The International Directory of Bisexual Groups (\$3.50 to ECBN, P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140).

Right on, Isadora! If you appreciate her respect for the many experiences of bisexuality, let her know. Write Ask Isadora, The Village Voice, 842 Broadway, New York, NY 10013.

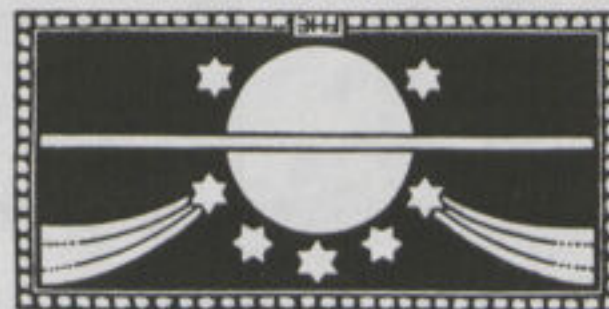
Bisexuality - Having It All. Lear's, May 1992 issue, page 55-59.

An excellent and well-researched article by Susan Barron. Some snippets:

For those fond of a good mystery, bisexuality is an irresistible though vexing subject. All romantic love - whether along the single paths of desire or not - is perplexing, the analysts say. But bisexuality tends to make otherwise reasonable people particularly nervous. Sex, after all, is a disorderly enough enterprise when boundaries are, seemingly, in place. Erotic ambiguity, however, blurs the lines between gender, culture, power, and identity. The notion of dual desire calls into question our basic categories for ordering experience; it shifts the ground beneath us. If bisexuality is indeed real, what happens to our sexual rules of order? And how much is at stake in the answer? . . .

Bisexuality, experts suggest, is not really one thing but a diverse, only partially understood group of phenomena. Its definition is confoundingly ambiguous: the capacity to respond erotically, emotionally, or both to either gender. Like almost everything, dual desires appear to change over time. They can be simultaneous or sequential, transitory or episodic throughout a person's life. . . .

For both men and women. . . exactly equal attraction for both sexes is extremely rare. Almost everyone has at least a slight preference for one sex or the other, though this fact does not negate bisexuality. A person can be bilingual and still favor one language over another. . . . ▼



Happy Pride Month!

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☐ Matron Saint (WOW!): \$100

Send this form along with your
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BBWN

P.O. Box 639

Cambridge, MA 02140

CALENDAR

THE CENTER

is the Lesbian, Gay and
Bisexual Community Center,
338 Newbury Street, 202,
Boston, MA 02115.

*For Ongoing
Events, see pages
10 and 11*

◆
**Ovary Action, A
Women's Group of
Queer Nation**, seeks
new members. They
meet 2 Wednesdays a
month from 8-9:45pm
at the Women's Center,
46 Pleasant St, Cam-
bridge. They are a di-
rect action group dedi-
cated to addressing
both blatant and subtle
homophobia in our cul-
ture. Info: 354-8807.

◆
**July 27
Monday:
BBWN Volunteer
Night**
Help stuff the August/
September issue of
BiWomen! (September?
Where does the time
go?) See old friends,
make new ones. It
really is fun, especially
a lot of women show
up! You can read
BiWomen hot off the
press!
6-10pm. Please call
(617) BIS-MOVE for
location.



June 1 ♦ Monday

BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30-9:30pm. A safe place
for women who want to learn more about bisexuality –
myths, theories, experiences – and to connect with the bi
community. All women welcome! At the Women's Center,
46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Info: 354-8807. (women only)

June 5-7 ♦ Friday-Sunday

Women Outdoors National Gathering at Sargent Camp
in Peterborough, N.H. Info: Deb at (203) 747-4484.

June 6 ♦ Saturday

Lesbian/Gay/Bi Swing & Ballroom Dance, season finale
with live music by Cheek to Cheek swing orchestra.
8:15pm-midnight; Swing dance lesson 8:15-9pm. Smoke-/
alcohol-free. Casual attire. No partner necessary.
Admission \$6. At the Old Cambridge Baptist Church in
Harvard Square, Cambridge. Info: (617) 629-2219.

Black Lizard shows at the Brattle Theater in Harvard
Square at 6:15pm, meet in front of the theater at 5:45pm
to buy tickets. This is a very camp Japanese film written by
bisexual writer Yukio Mishima.

June 7 ♦ Sunday

Bi Space. A friendly rap space to meet other bisexuals
and talk about bisexual issues. A \$2 donation is
requested. Room 204 at THE CENTER. Info: 247-6683.
(women and men)

June 11-13 ♦ Thursday-Saturday

Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, at
Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY. Theme:
"Transformations: Women, Gender, Power." For details
contact Elaine Abelson, New School for Social Research,
Eugene Lang College, 65 W. 11th St., NYC, NY 10011.

June 11-14 ♦ Thursday-Sunday

Conference on Virginia Woolf, at Southern Connecticut
State Univ. in New Haven, Conn. Contact Dr. Vera
Neverow-Turk, English Dept., SCSU, New Haven, CT
06515.

June 12 ♦ Friday

BiFest '92

▽ **BiFest Dinner** at Mississippi's Restaurant, 735
Huntington Ave. in Boston. We will start at 5:30pm, but
drop in whenever you get there.

▽ **BiFest Movies with Bisexual Characters &
Erotic Story Telling**, 7-11:30pm at the Massachusetts
College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston. Longwood/
Hospital stop on the E branch of the Green Line. Just a
short walk from Mississippi's Restaurant.

June 13 ♦ Saturday

BBWN Annual Pride Brunch, 8:30-11:00am at the

Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston.
Copley stop on the Green Line. \$4.00.

Boston Gay Pride Parade and Celebration. The bi
groups will meet under the steaming kettle at Government
Center at 11:30am. Government Center stop on the
Green and Blue Lines.

▽ **BiFest Bi Boogie**, Saturday night. BiFest will
choose a mixed gender gay dance in town and go there as
a visible bisexual group. Location of the dance To Be
Announced.

June 14 ♦ Sunday

▽ **BiFest Bagel Brunch**, 9:30am at the
Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave.,
Boston. Longwood Hospital stop on the E branch of the
Green Line.

▽ **BiFest Workshops on Bisexuality** (Two
sessions), 10:45am-2pm. Tentative list includes: "Bisexual
Parents", "Bisexual People of Color", "Coming Out", "Sex
Radicalism", "Bisexual Activism", and "Relationships." If
you would like to help facilitate one of these workshops or
have a suggestion of your own, contact Biversity Boston at
617-247-6683.

▽ **BiFest Closing**, 2pm. Announcements,
acknowledgments, and tearful good-byes (and good Bis).

June 18 ♦ Thursday

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Speakers Bureau meeting. Info:
354-0133.

June 19-23 ♦ Friday-Tuesday

**National Women's Studies Association Annual
Conference**, in Austin, Tex. Theme: "Enlarging the Circle:
The Power of Feminist Education." Info: Goldie Thomas at
(908) 846-8812.

June 20 ♦ Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch, 10:45am. At Sibel's Restaurant, 100
Peterborough St, Boston. Fenway T-stop on the Green
line. (women and men)

Hartford, Conn. Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Pride March,
with marching bands, floats, and Harvey Fierstein as
Grand Marshal. Rally at the Capital, followed by a march
up Framingham Ave to the Elizabeth Rose Garden.

Leather Pride Night, from 6-10pm at the Limelight, 47 W.
20th St., New York, N.Y. Tickets are \$10 in advance from
L.P.N., 1040 First Ave., Suite 319, New York, NY 10022,
and \$15 at the door. Info: (718) 349-6401.

June 26-29 ♦ Friday-Monday

National N.O.W. Conference in Chicago, Ill. Info: (202)
331-0066.

CALENDAR continues on page 10

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

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recycled paper

Bi Activist Speaks at Northampton

Bisexual activist Loraine Hutchins spoke at the 1992 Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride March in Northampton on May 9. The following, in teeny-tiny type, is the text of her speech:

(© 1992 by Loraine Hutchins)

Four years ago in Washington, D.C., there was no bisexual contingent in our Gay Pride Parade, as usual. But I was tired of being anonymous after being out as a bisexual in D.C. for over 15 years. So I dressed up in my WonderWoman with a Hard-On outfit, painted a bi byke (B-Y-K-E) license plate for my BI cycle, and made a sign saying "Peace To All Closet Bisexuals And To Those Already Out Too." I marched alone in that 1988 Washington, D.C., Pride Parade, to cheers AND jeers—because I was tired of being silent. If I had to be alone, I figured, at least I didn't have to be invisible.

Tremendous change has happened since then. A national bi movement has been born. This bi movement flourishes in books, magazines, dances, directories, over [computer electronic]-mail, and at local, national and international gatherings. Bisexuals now appear on CNN talk shows, NOT to be ridiculed, but to talk seriously about our politics. We appear at art performances, on academic panels, and even on gay magazine covers, like the recent OUT/LOOK magazine's provocative cover feature: "What Do Bisexuals Want?"

What do bisexuals want? What do you think we want? We want it ALL! Or, to lighten it up, "I know what bis want, I know what bis want, I know what girls want, I know what boys want!"

Bi social groups and political action/education groups are meeting in Seattle and Albany, in Chicago and N.Y., from L.A. to Boulder, Boston, Philadelphia, Columbia and Miami, to New Zealand, London, Amsterdam and Berlin. In Washington, D.C., we've just celebrated our first successful conference on multiculturalism and sexual diversity, convened by AMBi/AMBUSH—the Alliance of Multicultural Bisexuals United to Stop Heterosexism, Homophobia, Harassment, HIV, and Helms.

Monday morning I stood with my queer AND straight, young and old, of color and white fellow demonstrators at the United States Justice Department to register our rage at the federal government's lack of investigation into the Rodney King police brutality case. It was a "tense coalition moment"

Northampton continues on page 5

**BBWN Coordinating Committee meeting
Sept. 16 . . .**

Details on this and other important Network news on page 2!

BiFocus

Part Two

Here is the second half of the excerpts from the March 24 edition of "Say It, Sister!", a weekly radio show broadcast every Wednesday, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on WMBR in Cambridge, 88.1 FM ("First on your FM dial!"). The first half of this interview, which was conducted by Laura Perez, appeared in our last issue. She interviewed Mia Anderson, a Jamaican Bisexual; and Marcia Gomes, an African-American Lesbian, about being women of color who are lesbian or bisexual.

Laura Perez: We're going to get on to our second big topic of discussion here, which is something that I feel very strongly about, and that is the tension between the bisexual and lesbian communities . . . I know that we've seen a lot of that played out in Northampton last year, where there was a very strong, proactive effort from the lesbian community up there to exclude . . . bisexuals from the march.

BiFocus continues on page 9

BBWN News

Honor Roll



Claire M.
Ann G.
Lucy F.
Chaman G.
Kathleen F.
Ginny S.
Ginny L.
The Brunch Women
Robyn O.
Gail Z.
Kathleen H.
Susan S.
Laura S.
Ruth L.
Trixie
Loraine H.



BiWomen is published
bi-monthly.

Your Editors:

Kathleen Hepburn
Susan Schiefelbein

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Laura Perez
Marcia Deihl
Robyn Ochs
Loraine Hutchins
Kathleen Hepburn
Laura Sachs
Stephanie Berger
Cathy Winter



The Second International Bisexual Conference

The Second International Bisexual Conference will be held in London October 23-24, 1992. The conference will be a mixture of workshops and plenary sessions, with the first morning devoted to finding out about each other's country. Within the conference there will be a women-only conference Saturday morning. Sliding scale registration fee from \$0 to \$15. Payment should be by International money order to the nearest pound. Child care is available if arranged in advance. The U.S. contact for registration forms, payments and any queries is F. Klein, M.D., 4545, Park Boulevard, Suite 207, San Diego, CA 92116.



DEADLINE for the
Oct. / Nov. issue:

Friday, September 18, 1992

All submissions in writing, please, and include a name and phone number if possible. If you do not want your name published, please tell us! Otherwise we will assume that you do not mind being listed as a contributor. You may contribute anonymously, or just use your first name if you wish. Send articles, calendar entries, letters, art, news and views to:

BiWomen, BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

The Bisexual Community has a New Home

The East Coast Bisexual Network has rented office space at 95 Berkeley Street, Suite 613. This space is a non-profit building. Our neighbors on the sixth floor will include Metropolitan Community Church, Dignity Boston, and the AIDS Housing Coalition, as well as the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC).

Our lease begins in August, and we hope to open our new office by September 1, 1992.

We will need help with moving and with setting up the new space. If you have any interest in helping (with the move or organizing an "office-warming" party), please call Robyn at 495-8476 during the day.

Important Meeting

There will be **BBWN Coordinating Committee meeting on September 16** at 7:30pm at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. This will be a take stock/touching base kind of meeting. Many decisions are being made about the future direction of the Network—we **need to come together** to discuss these decisions. Let's get ready for our **10th birthday**; get the Coordinating Committee meetings going again, work together, discuss some hot topics. Let's talk about the newsletter: policies regarding personal ads, classified ads, editorial content, production process, soliciting ads; update ourselves on the Intro meetings, the Social Committee—what's new, where are we going? **BBWN is a volunteer organization, and needs women to be involved in making decisions and setting policy.** Share your ideas! You don't have to be an old pro to have good ideas—please come! Info: (617) 247-6683.



The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

Letters

Dear BBWN,

Please send this BBBW (Big, Beautiful, Bisexual Woman) a BIG Bisexual Pride T-shirt. At least XL, but if you have 2XL or 3XL or bigger, I'd like the biggest one you have. Much thanks for publishing BiWomen! It makes me feel less alone in the world, and less invisible, as does going to my local Unitarian Universalist Church. It's wonderful how many bi-folk I've discovered since I started to come out at the beginning of this year. They help ward off isolation, too, as well as giving me a hint as to how HUGE (and potentially powerful) our community is!

In love and solidarity,

Karen

Lexington, Kentucky

P.S. This is my first Pride Week present to myself.



The following letter was sent to the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, following their production of a flyer which used language that was inclusive of bisexuals announcing a day of lobbying in the Massachusetts State House:

To Members of the Coalition,

It was such a welcome surprise to see your flyer for the June 16 lobbying day, and to discover that you used the word "bisexual" along with "lesbian and gay." As a bisexual woman active in the movement for all of our civil rights I felt affirmed and validated. I'm sure that if I were ever prosecuted/persecuted under the Massachusetts sodomy law, I would not, as someone who is "only bisexual," be given a sentence of only two and a half years instead of the "normal" five.

I am enclosing a check for \$10, even though it is strictly outside of my current budget, and I will try to attend the lobbying day, or at the very least make phone calls to my representatives on that day. Please keep up your excellent and important work.

In solidarity,
Robyn Ochs
Cambridge



The following letter was sent to the Editor of Bay Windows, July 2, 1992:

Usually I love Eric Omer's comics, whether they're in my village rag (*Cambridge Chronicle*) or in *Bay Windows*. But I was sorry to see a dusty old stereotype in the June 18 issue: a bisexual who is "handsome" and "plays mind games." By these lights, all gay men are ugly and impeccably ethical. Hello? It's 1992.

But at least you're *half* fair. The interview with Bi-god-mother Robyn Ochs and the domestic partnership quotes from Alice Wolf made up for both the cartoon and the strange "inning" of the word "bisexual" from the 1992 Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Pride March. At least, let's put in in where it really is! Perot doesn't want us, so I hope you all do.

Marcia Diehl
Cambridge



The following letter was sent to Governor Bill Clinton from the New England Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans.

Dear Governor Clinton,

On behalf of the New England Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your commitment to reverse Department of Defense directive 1332.14, prohibiting gay, lesbian and bisexual women and men from serving their country in the military, if you are elected President of the United States. Your pledge, vision and courage bring hope to the hearts of millions of gay, lesbian and bisexual people in the US and around the world; as 13 NATO alliance countries do not have policies that preclude the participation of gay personnel in their armed forces.

The practice of "drumming out" gay and bisexual people from the US Armed Forces began under General George Washington, in the 1700's, when sodomy laws were used arbitrarily to dishonorably discharge "suspected" soldiers. Today, two hundred plus years later, these same socially and emotionally destructive policies are still in effect, as evidenced by the present US Navy investigations under way at the US Navy base in Yokosuka, Japan, of those sailors suspected to be homosexual or bisexual. These witch hunts are standard operational procedure.

Only God knows the "human cost," in terms of the suffering and pain visited upon those of us who have been imprisoned and Dishonorably Discharged, as a consequence of the inhumane and archaic policies of the Department of Defense.

Letters continue on next page



Our address:

BiWomen

BBWN

P.O. Box 639

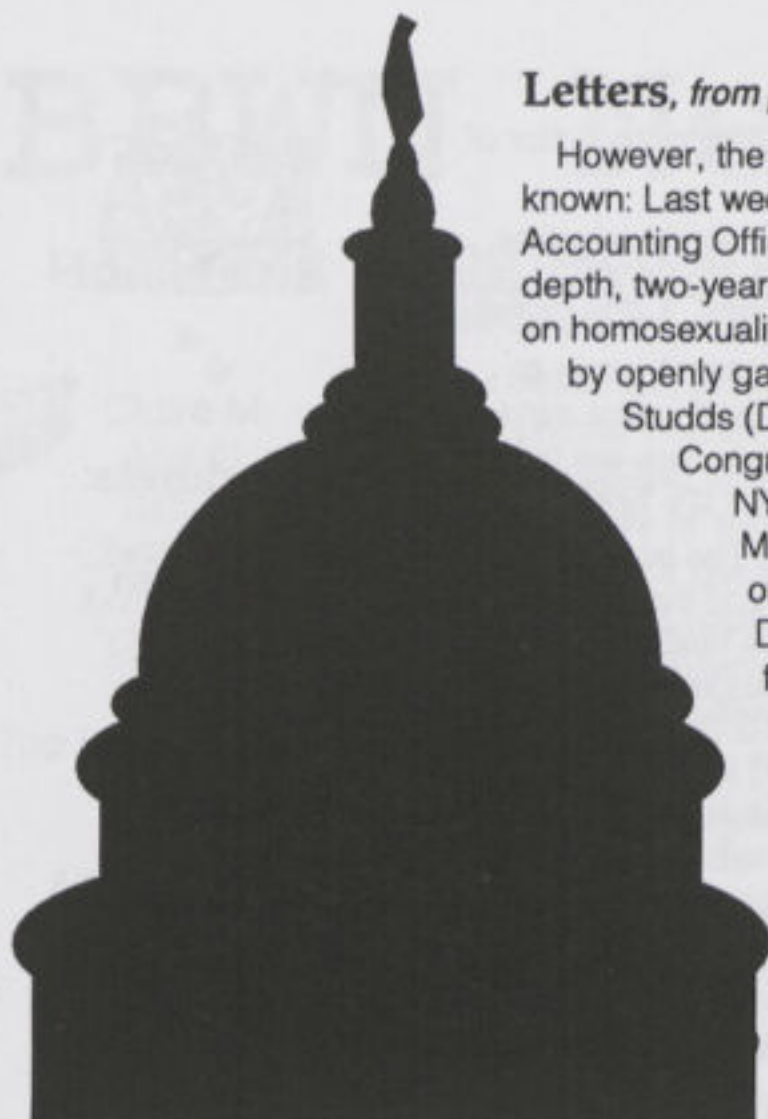
Cambridge, MA

02140



Support Group for Married Women

An informal, discreet support group for lesbian and bisexual women married to men. We could talk about anything from rearing children to what it's like being married and gay. You may also bring your children. For more information, write to BBWN at P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140.



Letters, from preceding page

However, the cost to the US taxpayer is known: Last week the General Accounting Office (GAO) released an in-depth, two-year review of the DOD policy on homosexuality. This report, requested by openly gay Congressman Gerry Studds (D-MA), together with Congressmen Ted Weiss (D-NY) and John Conyers (D-MI), casts a wide shadow on the validity of current DOD policy. Its major findings:

Between 1980 and 1990, 17,000 people were separated from the armed forces based on their sexual orientation, an average of 1,500 personnel per year. In 1990, the calculated cost to the government and taxpayer for the

recruitment, training, and replacement of gay and bisexual women and men was \$27 million. Additionally, the report went on to say: "many experts believe that the military's policy is unsupported, unfair and counterproductive; has no validity according to current scientific research and opinions; and appears to be based on the same type of prejudicial suppositions that were used to discriminate against blacks and women before these policies were changed."

As you are aware, the arguments used by the DOD to exclude black people and limit the career opportunities of women were finally changed by Presidential Executive Order 9981, on 6 July 1948, and by an act of Congress which passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, also in 1948.

The GAO report is one of four reports that I know of that hammer away at the illogical and homophobic foundation of the US Military. Others include: the US Navy's Crittendon Report of 1957, which stated, "A third idea persists without sound basis in fact is the idea that homosexuals necessarily pose a security risk." Twenty-four years later, the Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, and General Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called the "blackmail" issue an "old chestnut," and that the ban regarding homosexuals was not justified by the DOD's one-time contention that gays and bisexuals posed a greater security risk, respectively. Nonetheless, both the Secretary and the General remain opposed to lifting the ban.

The remaining two reports, prepared by the DOD's Defense Personnel Security Research

and Education Center (PERSEREC), and secured and made public at the insistence of Congressman Gerry Studds, contained affirmative language in support of a DOD policy change. The first report stated that sexuality "is unrelated to job performance in the same way as is being left- or right-handed." And the second report said that gay men and lesbians display military suitability "that is as good or better than the average heterosexual."

Additionally, on 19 May 1992, Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder introduced a bill (HR 5208) before Congress called the Military Freedom Act. This bill, co-sponsored by Congressmen Gerry Studds and Barney Frank, and supported by Reps. Chester Atkins and Joseph Kennedy III, will attempt to rescind present DOD policy. Also, two other bills pending in both the House and Senate will ask President Bush and Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney to reverse the ban. However, it is my opinion that both the President and the Secretary will decline.

Governor Clinton, untold thousands of gay, lesbian and bisexual veterans have fought and died on the battlefields of strange lands, so we as a society could be free. Free from the oppressions and divisions that now chain us as a society. These social "divisions," be they of racial or sexual nature, will ultimately destroy the social fabric of American society. It is not in the best interest of the US Military—nor our society—to maintain impediments and exclusionary policies toward gay, lesbian or bisexual people who want proudly to serve our country. Silence and indifference on matters of human and civil rights by institutions that govern our society is tantamount to immoral complicity in the perpetuation of prejudice, discrimination and fear.

President Bush and Ross Perot have not, and will not, show us a "kinder and gentler" nation. Our hopes and dreams of an egalitarian representation in both the military and society, rest upon the stroke of your pen and the love in your heart for all of God's children. In this spirit, the New England Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans endorse you for the office of President of the United States.

Sincerely,

Cliff Arnesen
Co-President
New England Gay, Lesbian
and Bisexual Veterans, Inc.



Decorated Colonel Dismissed For Being Lesbian

Margarethe Cammermeyer, a decorated Vietnam Veteran, was discharged from the National Guard for being a lesbian and is fighting her June dismissal. She is hopeful that Congress will vote to overturn the ban on homosexuals in the military before her case works its way through the courts.

Cammermeyer's discharge ended a 26-year military career as a nurse and administrator that included two tours in Vietnam and a term as chief National Guard Nurse for Washington state.

A Bronze Star holder who was named Veterans Administration Nurse of the Year in 1985, Cammermeyer acknowledged her sexual orientation while interviewing for a spot at the Army War College. At the time, she realized she had probably ruined her career. But she hoped her strong record would help the military realize the injustice of its anti-gay policy.

- from *The Boston Reader*

Northampton, from page 1

(in some ways similar to some of the moments you all have had here recently). We stood there, blacks and whites eying each other warily, wondering who'd leave if the going got tough; queer organizers wondering if straights were going to give in to homophobia any moment and ask us to leave; afraid they wouldn't see how our issues connect with theirs, how ALL hate crimes must be condemned. But the alliance held, at least for that moment, this Monday, one special point in time, AND it holds fragilely, still.

There is a way in which we glorify conflict and are exhilarated by it, a way in which it becomes a drug that fuels us rather than the respectful exchange it could be. This happens when we yield to fear, to hatred, to the lowest common denominator of what we all can be.

It remains for those of us (of all orientations, abilities, races and classes), willing to hold the contradictions dynamically in tension, to apply our creativity, strength and trust to keep communication open and moving forward, day by day—one, difficult painful, rich, vital step at a time—so that the vision of ending ALL inter-related oppressions becomes clear.

It takes great courage to be OUT anywhere in this country, today. I want to take a moment to praise us all, to recognize the fierce beauty and defiant, resilient strength of all queer people, through all times, throughout our lives; queer people who have made this march possible for the last ten years, made the way we live our lives possible, who give us hope to carry on.

Most of all I praise and thank women-loving-women, dykes, lesbians—sisters you help me keep on fighting, you teach me the importance of standing on my own two feet, the importance of sisterhood, the importance of woman space.

Gay men I praise you—my radical faery brothers in the struggle against sexism, I love you all—from the quiet, studious ones to the mariposas, you muscle builders, leather daddies and queens. You show me bravery, humor and flair in the face of death and great suffering.

I praise transgenderal people—you two-spirited ones, you shamans who dare straddle the spaces between what we're told exists, you who cross the forbidden lines—you give me courage to shake off my shame and fear, to trust my own sanity, to insist on complexity, honesty, to insist on being me, however I wanna be!

Heterosexual people who are our allies, I praise you, too: those of you who understand your stake in society's acceptance of us, you who work alongside us to increase diversity and options for everyone. Thank you.

Beautiful bisexuals—well, what can I say? Thanks for being my safe harbor, my home, my heartspace. Or, as Betsy Rose sings, "...women are the center of my song, AND the hand stretched to my brothers, has been burnt, but still is strong!"

Why are we so afraid of talking to one another, really talking? And listening, too?

We've got to walk through our fears. We don't HAVE a choice any longer, the price of avoidance is TOO HIGH.

The increasing dialogues between bisexual women and lesbians in various cities this year and last—these encourage me. Because, until we women get it together with each other, it doesn't matter one bit what the men do or don't do. As long as we women are divided by internalized and/or institutionalized sexism, homophobia, and biphobia, by divisions of race and class, we cannot defend ourselves.

Don't let internalized woman-hatred divide us sisters, we need each other too much!

There are many, many reasons why we urgently need this unity in the months and years ahead. Today I'll mention just ONE reason, one reason out of many. That reason: APRIL 25th 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL EQUAL RIGHTS AND LIBERATION. A year from

now y'all come to my hometown, Washington, D.C.!

You know, it's wonderful living in Washington when the marches come. You can feel the air change, become charged with passion, ideals, hope. Anyone who was there in '87 knows what I mean, how the streets, parks and subways became completely QUEER for a day. It's a wonderful feeling, that surge of solidarity, that feeling of belonging to something BIG, the exhilaration of being part of a larger movement, many larger, related movements that all express our dreams.

Right now, this weekend, 69 regional representatives, from Massachusetts and every other state, are meeting in Dallas, Texas, to hammer out the platform for next April's march. Twelve years ago at the first national march for gay rights there was no "lesbian" in the title. Five years ago, when we marched again on Washington, the title included lesbians. But, even one year ago it would have been unthinkable to include BISEXUAL. Our bi movement has come this far, so far in just a year!

The decision to include bisexuals was made this January at a national March on Washington meeting. It was pushed through with a coalition of students, leather people, transgenderal people, lesbians and gay men. The April 25 1993 March on Washington will be the MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN GAY BI EQUAL RIGHTS AND LIBERATION. It was a close vote. And we won. Now we all share the karma of living with that title.

What the new March title means is that ALL OF US—lesbians, gay men, bisexual women and men, differently abled people, transgenderal people, leather people, monogamous couples, celibate singles, polyfidelitous types, our straight allies; we ALL have to learn to talk about BIPHOBIA, as well as everything else we talk about, too.

We all must interrupt biphobia, challenge the ignorant stereotypes about bisexuals—that we're confused, promiscuous, closeted, unreliable—stereotypes that have been MORE visible up to this point than bi people ourselves. A lot of negative attitudes about bisexuals are based on people projecting their own sexual fantasies and fears upon us, but they're ALSO based on the fact that WE don't come out and show people who we really are. We've got to do that, we've got to surrender our straight AND our gay closets, too!

A point about heterosexual privilege here: it's like male privilege or white privilege—there's nothing wrong with being born into privilege. It's what we DO with it, what we put it in the service of that's what's important.

What happens when the "small, safe 10% of the population" that straight America *thinks* exists "over there" (in their minds) seems to TRIPLE in size, at least potentially? Are we jointly 30-40% of the country, the world? Well, it's probably not going to happen in our lifetimes that such a big percentage of the population will be politicized to be in alliance with the lesbian/gay/bisexual movement—but we CAN talk about how we'd all feel and how it might happen.

This weekend the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce meets in St. Louis. They're considering how the gay/lesbian movement and the bi movement can work together, on both a grassroots and national level, to make sure the national March on Washington is a huge success.

These are tremendous victories, but still, I worry. None of this is gonna be easy.

I worry about continued lesbian invisibility and misogyny within our movement. I'm committed to working with and for lesbians to make sure that doesn't happen. I love calling myself queer. I belong to Queer Planet. AND I don't want to see any of our individual or group identities or needs eclipsed by any one word.

I worry about the class racial divisions increasing at a frightening pace right now in this country. (You KNOW it's a lot worse than we know, if George Bush says "we can't return to the status quo".) I know that as a woman with the privilege of being white, bi, and middle class I need to continually put

Northampton continues on page 6

The 'Zine Scene

Zines are amateur press, self-published magazines. You become a member by contributing material plus photocopying cost. The Organizing Editor does NO EDITING, just compiles and sends it out to members.

BiAngles

For people who self-identify as bisexual and those who are bi-friendly.

\$1 to: Rifka Reichler, 709 N. Duff, Mitchell, SD 57301 (DO NOT address to "BiAngles"), or call (605) 996-6168.

Asian/Pacific Lesbian or Bisexual Women

Wakka Wakka Productions, 7985 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 109268, West Hollywood, California, 90046, or call them at (213) 663-8520.



Sources and Resources

Some resources used in the production of this issue of BiWomen:

BiFocus, a newsletter for Philadelphia's bisexual community. \$12/yr. (4 issues): BiFocus, P.O. Box 30372, Philadelphia, PA 19103

BiNet Newsletter, a publication of the Bisexual Network of the USA. \$2 donation requested per issue: BiNet, 584 Castro St. #441, San Francisco, CA 94114-2588. Indicate if discretion is required.

Gay Community News, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116. Recently suspended publication.

Options, Rhode Island's Lesbian and Gay Newspaper. Monthly. Free, donations welcome: Options, P.O. Box 27444, Providence, RI 02907.

Socialism and Sexuality, the newsletter and discussion bulletin of the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Commission of the Democratic Socialists of America. \$8/yr. (4 issues): Chicago DSA, 1608 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL 60647.

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▼
▼
(to next page)



Bi Woman Honored as Grand Marshal in San Francisco

In what has been an important year for bi-visibility, a great honor was bestowed upon a long-time favorite member of the San Francisco Area bisexual community. Dr. Maggie Rubenstein, affectionately known as the "founding mother" of the Bay Area bisexual movement and a member of the Bay Area Bisexual Network Board of Directors, was one of two grand marshals of the largest Pride Celebration in the country—the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration. The Parade on June 28 marked the first time an out bisexual has been awarded the prestigious honor of presiding over a Pride Parade or Celebration.

Northampton, from page 5

my power where my mouth is, in the service of people of color, gay people and poor people, so that we can open up things, turn them around, make them work for more than just a few.

So as we go forward into the next year, let's remember these five points:

ONE. *The civil rights, gay, and feminist movements MADE Bi Power possible. Always remember that. We build upon these roots. We owe allegiance to them. Never forget it!*

TWO. *Biphobia is ROOTED in heterosexism and homophobia whether outward and institutionalized or internal and personal. Biphobia is not a thing alone. Fighting it means fighting heterosexism and homophobia first, and interconnectedly.*

THREE. *BOTH coalitions and separate space are necessary. Both strengthen us. We CAN have both...and respect both. Both make us strong!*

FOUR. *There's a REASON why this sexually diverse, multicultural consciousness is blossoming. It's bigger than any of us. It's a cultural change—integrally related to the growing power and equality-claiming by women and people of color around the globe. Queer and bisexual people, transgender people, mixed race people, all who aren't straight, abled, white men—defy the categories patriarchy would divide us by. We can link with each other, serve as the shamans, the bodhisattvas, the healers who visualize wholeness, and help midwife its birth. But only when we each claim our own power.*

FIVE. *We claim power by talking with people who don't understand or agree. We must take these risks. We cannot stay stuck in this present polarized painful time. Dialogue with people about the April 1993 March. Discuss its demands. Discuss ALL the diversity issues it implies.*

And, as they say in San Francisco, "Dancing Is The First Step To Marching" — so let's keep dancing,

Dancing till we disappear all fear!

Thank you for inviting me here.

APARTMENT WANTED

Responsible woman, 35, seeks 2-3 room apartment in Somerville or Cambridge near the Red Line (prefer Davis or Porter area). Good references, no smoking or pets. Need natural light, closet/storage space, and bathtub. Prefer Porter or Davis Square area. Can pay \$450-500 plus utilities or \$575 including utilities, per month. Move-in date flexible. Call Ann at home 625-3742 or work 330-1660.

Notes from All Over

Kansas City, Here We Come!

We recently received a subscription from a woman in Kansas. She read about our publication in the Lesbian and Gay News Telegraph, St. Louis, Missouri. Wonder what the Telegraph said. . . . Thanks, sister, and welcome to the Network! ▼

New Jersey's First Pride Day

On Saturday, June 6th, New Jersey celebrated its first-ever Lesbian and Gay Pride Day in Asbury Park. Marchers began at City Hall and paraded down the boardwalk to an open-air festival. Musicians and comedians performed throughout the day while festival-goers patronized the many vendors and information booths. Ten BiUnity members joined New Jersey's Bi Network at the march and set up a table with bi information, t-shirts and books.

For many, the highlight of the festival was BiUnity's dental dam kissing booth. Under a sign proclaiming "Dam Good Kiss," passers-by could kiss the bi of their choice through a tasty green dental dam. One of BiUnity's more enthusiastic kissers attracted attention by repeatedly shouting "Latex is lovely—kiss a queer!"



— from BiFocus, a newsletter for Philadelphia's bisexual community ▼

Gear Up for 1993 March on Washington

Organizing for the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation is in full swing. March organizers aim to bring one million les/bi/gay folks and supporters to Washington, D.C., on April 25, 1993. This is the first march on Washington to be explicitly inclusive of bisexuals. If you want to help organize a march contingent from your area, contact the March on Washington at P.O. Box 34607, Washington, DC 20043-4607 or call 1-800-832-2889.

— from the Socialism and Sexuality Newsletter ▼



North Carolina Group Meets

A friend from North Carolina writes:

A bisexual women's group meets at Our Own Place (a lesbian space) every third Sunday at 5 p.m. in Durham, North Carolina. Only women and boys under 13 years old, please. OOP's address is P.O. Box 11732, Durham, NC 27703; phone (919) 688-0223. Six to ten women regularly attend. ▼

Valley Group Returns

From the newsletter of the newly-revived Valley Bisexual Network (of western Massachusetts):

Some of us sent the following letter to the Lesbian Liberation Rally [held on the same day as the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride March; see BiWomen Aug./Sept. 1991, Vol. 9 No. 3, issue for background story].

May 9, 1992

To the Lesbian Liberation Rally,

As bisexual feminists, we would like to express our enthusiastic support of the Lesbian Liberation Rally. We recognize the need for separate lesbian space, and acknowledge our common struggle to end heterosexism and women's oppression.

In sisterhood,

Lynne Vickery, Megan Rosser, [redacted]
[redacted] Amy Walsh, Helen Harrison, Val Nelson, Thea, Loraine Hutchins, Robyn Ochs, Ali Woolwich, and several other women who signed the letter the morning of the Pride March.

Congratulations and best of luck to the Valley Bisexual Network. ▼

(from previous page)

Currently Untitled, the newsletter of the Valley Bisexual Network. \$0-10/yr. (6 issues) sliding scale, \$5 suggested: P.O. Box 775, Northampton, MA 01061-0775.

Bay Windows, serving New England's Gay and Lesbian Community. \$40/yr. (weekly): 1523 Washington St., Boston, MA 02118.

OUT/LOOK, the national Lesbian and Gay Quarterly. \$23/yr (4 issues): 540 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

The Bi Monthly, the Champaign-Urbana (Illinois) Bisexual Network Newsletter.



ASIAN AMERICAN QUEERS--GAIN VISIBILITY THROUGH GUERILLA ACADEMICS!

Materials by and about AA sexual minorities (gay, bi, lesbian, TS, TV, etc.) sought for bibliographic database to aid research and teaching/course development. I will include almost anything: literature, films and video, radio, television, visual art, audio recordings, advertisements and commercials, pornography, AIDS propaganda, newsletters... I am a graduate student frustrated with the invisibility and isolation AA queers unnecessarily face. Let me know about material you've seen, collected, produced. The more entries in the database, the more powerful a research tool it will be. Mailing address: Jen Ting/ Dept. of American Civilization/ Box 1892/ Brown University/ Providence, RI 02912. e-mail: jennifer_puall'ting@brown.edu. (do not omit apostrophe).

Calling All Bisexual Women

Call for written and visual work for the first anthology published in Canada by and about bisexual women. That means you!!! We are longing to read your poetry, essays, short stories, theory, oral histories, journals, letters, humour, interviews, conversations, rants, rages, and (wo)manifestoes about all issues and experiences related to being a bisexual woman. We would love to include your drawings, photographs and other visuals.

At least half of the anthology will be written and produced by Women of Colour First Nations women from all of Turtle Island (both sides of the "border") are welcome. We are excited and honoured that this anthology will be published by SISTER VISION PRESS, and Black Women and Women of Colour Press.

We actively seek voices of bisexual women of diverse backgrounds, abilities, class, cultures, race, religion, age, and geographical locations.

Share your work with us:

Bisexual Women's Anthology, c/o Sister Vision Press, P.O. Box No. 217, Stn. E, Toronto, Ontario M6H 4F2

If you can, please send your writing on IBM-compatible disc and a printed copy. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope (and if outside Canada, International Reply Coupons) for return.

Call for Papers

Sheela Lambert, a New York activist, is editing a new anthology of Bi Writings. The title of the work is "Bi the Way: An Anthology of Writings on Bisexuality."

Contact Sheela Lambert, 720 W.173rd St., New York, NY 10032; phone (212) 928-3558.

ATTENTION WIMMIN

I am a researcher that studies gender identity/human sexuality. Have wimmin noticed that there is a plethora of information on queer sexuality that is generally presented as research on "gays", "homosexuals", and/or "bisexuals" that in reality are studies on queer males? Wimmin are generally not included in these studies. I am attempting to rectify this in my own small way. However, in order to perform studies, I need wimmin to participate in these studies. Thus, I would like to ask a favor. I need wimmin willing to be interviewed (by me). The interview can be conducted through e-mail or via the US mail. Typically, the interview requires about 20 minutes to complete in person. It should take a similar amount of time through e-mail or US mail as well. The questions are simple, non-threatening, and you will have complete anonymity and confidentiality.

Your participation in this project would help me immensely and would provide valuable information on lesbianism/bifem as distinct lifestyles from male homosexuality and bisexuality.

If interested, please contact me directly at the following e-mail address:

"angela%bchem.dnet@dxl.nih.gov"

or through the US mail at:

Iana Pattatucci, Ph.D., D.E.

13107 Elsdale Ct. #101

Rockville, MD. 20851

Thanks in advance for your help.

iana

NOTICE

MATERIAL NEEDED: For an anthology on 'Body Image & Identity in the Lesbian, Bisexual & Gay Community(ies)'. The book will explore the ways in which the community both challenges and perpetuates society's beauty standard. Submissions and/or queries should be sent to: Dawn Atkins, P.O. Box 934, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0934. Deadline is Sept. 15, 1992. Suggested word length is 700-2500 words. For more info, write Dawn.

And there was another, I believe, contingent or march that included bisexuals along with that march behind it, I believe. In fact it was through a Dykes' Dialogue at [Boston's] Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Community Center that I met Marcia for the first time, and this was something that I knew was very important to me, to see what was really going on. And it was probably one of the most difficult things that I've ever experienced . . . There was a lot of pain brought up for many people and I think that it was somewhat productive discussion in that we realized that we're fighting the wrong battles here. Like you just mentioned earlier, not only as women of color, but as women, period, we shouldn't be doing all this infighting because it doesn't serve a purpose except for whoever you consider to be in power, white guys, or whatever. And we're fighting their battles for them, by being so divisive . . . And I don't want to sound like there aren't lesbians and bisexual women that don't get along. Of course the three of us are here, and we get along really fine. But it does exist, and I think there is a lot of ignorance out there, because I know one of the things we, I, heard over and over again at, in this dialogue was, "What is a bisexual? What is a bisexual?" . . . they wanted a concrete definition. "What does that mean? How are you different from us as lesbians?" What we talked about, too, was the acceptance of the individual. Because I claim myself as a bisexual, why are you dogging me? Why can't you get to know me first and then if you don't like me, fine. But just because I'm telling you this is who I am, [don't] just totally discard me.

Marcia Gomes: And I was very uncomfortable. I was not prepared for that at all. And some of, the way that some of the lesbians were expressing their feelings, they were saying things like, "I'm tired of coming to a meeting and seeing that the bisexuals are taking over." And they sounded no different to me, as a black woman, than listening to the people, or the way that people in my neighborhood in Holliston, Mass., must have been back in 1968 when the first black people moved on the street. And, it was really, it was very sad to me to see that kind of division and ignorance, really. A lot of it was based on ignorance. . . .

Laura Perez: It just seemed like such a generalization. There was a lot of discussion of, "when we have these women-only events and men show up, why do the bisexual women bring the men?" And it's those particular women, whether they're bisexual or not, that are bringing men, and maybe they're not clear that it's women-only space. And it's their individual issues. But to say that all bisexual women don't respect women-only space is just ridiculous. It's such a farce. . . .

Plus all the stuff that we hear about bisexuals spreading AIDS which is probably one of the most hurtful things . . .

It's that issue "what is a bisexual", the self identification, the definition of that word, plus the spreading thing, the scapegoating of the whole AIDS epidemic on one particular group is absolutely ridiculous. It's not who you sleep with, it's how you sleep with them. Using a condom or a dental dam is what the issue is. It's not the fact that you identify in a certain way, that you're spreading it from the queer community (or from the gay, lesbian, or bisexual community) to the straight community, or vice versa. It has nothing to do with it, but somehow that point is missed.

Marcia Gomes: Right. And to me, even in that sense, as sincere as they may have felt they were in that meeting, it really sounded like an excuse to alienate them further from bisexual women. It sounded like an excuse: "You know, you can't trust them, you know, they're spreading AIDS." And unprotected sex is what spreads AIDS. What really angered me is that they were not sharing their opinions as opinions. They were sharing them as though they were facts, things that everyone should know.

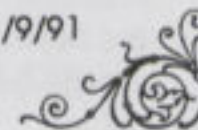
Laura Perez: . . . It seems like there's a lot of focus on the quote/unquote heterosexual half of you, as if you're split down the middle and one part of you is lesbian and one part is heterosexual, instead of seeing the whole person as a bisexual. . . . Bisexuality breaks down those dichotomies of black and white, straight and queer, or straight and lesbian, and opens that up. As bisexuals we're gonna be oppressed as bisexuals. We're gonna be oppressed for our quote/unquote lesbian half. And it's really important to be out as bisexual, because visibility is key.

So I think that it sounds like . . . it's a matter of just listening to each other, and taking someone as an individual first, regardless of how they self-identify, regardless of the sexual orientation or preference and to like or dislike the person for what their beliefs are, and not necessarily who they love or who they sleep with . . .



My pronouns are
tangling
again
evading each other and
jockeying for position
the "she's" lined up out
in front
as if the "he's" did not
muddle about
somewhere
while over there
behind a closed door
a "him" and a "he" and
a "his"
hold close by in a
rhythm
that will not quite
integrate
though between four
walls
"he" and "she" just fine
until too many "hims"
and "hers" collect
covering up the "she's"
so easily
stifling all possible
balance
yet the "she's" run
together so completely
the "she's" so cleanly
tuned
that an occasional "he"
rings discordant and
glaring
threatening chaos
"Who sings here?"
someone asked
and in truth
I could only say
"they" and "them"
and an occasional
"theirs"
hiding pelvic bones
under the confusion of
vague English pluralities

C.L. Winter, 11/9/91



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Ongoing Events:

◆ Mondays:

Bisexual Alcoholics Anonymous. 7:30-8:30pm, Mass. General Hospital, under Amphitheater (go past the Lower Amphitheater, take stairs up 3 flights). Closed speaker-discussion. Info: Harold at (617) 876-8059.

◆ Tuesdays:

Bisexual Women's Rap Group. 7:30pm-10pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

◆ Wednesdays:

Bisexual Children of Alcoholics. 7:30pm. An Al-Anon meeting for bisexual children of alcoholics. Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to the emergency room entrance), Boston. Info: Marge at (617) 259-1559.

Women's Job Support Network meets 6:30-8:30pm in the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge. This group is free and is a place where women can share resources/experiences, increase motivation, relieve stress, and network with contacts. Info: (617) 354-8807.



(to next page)



To Whom it May Concern...

Bay Windows Misbehaves

In a take-off of the Miss Manners etiquette advice column, Bay Windows offers "Ms. Behavior," a cheeky send-off of political correctness. While friendly humor is always welcome, humor at the expense of others is not. A recent issue featured a letter from a lesbian woman whose lover had left her; she later received an invitation to her ex-lover's heterosexual wedding. The groom is, in the opinion of the letter-writer, a "slimy, self-aggrandizing, wimpy-type fellow with nary a redeeming quality." The ex-lover seems totally enamored of this man, and the lesbian is disturbed by changes in the ex-lover's personality and tastes. The issue at hand seems to be the personality of the new beau, not his gender; the changes in the ex-lover, not her bisexuality. However, "Ms. Behavior" recommends "deprogramming" that includes inviting her to dinner, inviting "three of the women she was closest to prior to her departure from the lesbian community, without telling her they'll be there," tying her to the couch, and, among other things, "Make her watch *Desert Hearts* or any other lesbian film she might have liked (except for *Personal Best*, because one of the lesbians turns straight, and we hate when that happens)."

Please. I don't know about you, but I've had enough of people trying to convert me, deprogram me, deny my reality; it's just not funny. It's destructive. The resulting internalized biphobia can be dangerous to one's health.

To respond to Ms. Behavior, call (617) 266-6670, ext. 270 (24 hours a day); or write Ms. Behavior, c/o Bay Windows, 1523 Washington St., Boston, MA 02118.

— Kathleen Hepburn

OUT/LOOK Readers Respond

The Spring 1992 issue of OUT/LOOK, the national lesbian and gay quarterly, had the audacity to ask, "What Do Bisexuals Want?" They received a "striking number of responses," and chose to devote four full pages to the responses. Included are no less than eight letters, all of them bi-positive; a great bi comic strip by feminist comic artist Roberta Gregory; and a generous excerpt of a round-

table discussion between bisexual writers/activists Amanda Udis-Kessler, Sarah Murray and Elizabeth Reba Weise.

One of the letters:

What do you think bisexuals want? Love. Respect. Companionship. Commitment. Freedom. Equality. Acceptance. Hot sex. Friendship. Families. Community. Trust. Fun. Challenge. Security. Adventure. Peace of mind. Peace on earth. And, oh yeah — women and men.

San

Beth Not Afraid of the B-Word

From a recent "Ask Beth" column:

Dear Beth,

How can I tell if I'm gay? I've had a boyfriend and am in love now, but I'm still not sure how it is I feel toward women. How can I tell attraction from nervousness?

How can I reconcile feeling I'm in love and yet still retain these disturbing thoughts? My ex-boyfriend said he would still love me, even if I were bisexual, but how could I love myself?

CRYING

Generally speaking, a person who is attracted to and has romantic daydreams about someone of the same sex is gay. If they're interested in both sexes, they are bisexual. But there are many conflicting and complex emotions involved. You need to talk to a sex therapist. Get a referral from a mental health agency or from the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists, at (312) 644-0828.

Any responses to Beth?

Plus...

- Today's *Washington Post* coverage of DC's Pride Day marks first time ever that the "gay and bisexual community" were ever mentioned in the *Post* and first time ever that the bisexual community itself has been recognized as such. We had quite a contingent and three booths!

- Me and the anonymous author of *Half Straight: My Secret Bisexual Life* and another bi woman, two supportive het women and a bi

... continues on next page

... from preceding page

m/f couple appeared together on "Geraldo." It's titled "Bedding Bisexuals: Doubts, Deceptions and Dishonesty" and will air sometime in July.

Before we went on the producer took me aside and asked me to please act as if I was co-host, because "he doesn't have a clue about any of this. Interrupt him, take control whenever you want." Sure, I said, sure, glad to.

Geraldo was actually quite mellow and after the show in the greenroom when me and the bi couple were cruising the audience on the monitor and saying which ones we wanted, Geraldo came in and caught us doing it and said, "Oh, there you go, you bisexuals," to which point I grabbed him by his little pantywaist and said, "Oh c'mon Geraldo, you're just jealous, you wanna be like us too!" He didn't deny it, just shrugged.

— Loraine Hutchins

CALENDAR *continued from page 12*

Berkeley St., Suite 613) from 7-10pm. Be the first to read BiWomen hot off the press! Stuffing is fun and fast when lots of women stop by to help! For info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

October 4 ♦ Sunday

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau Old-fashioned Potluck, at the Trichnor Lounge in Boylston Hall, located in Harvard Yard next to the Widener Library. New and experienced speakers welcome. Noon-4pm. Drinks and plates, forks, cups, etc., will be provided. Take the Red Line or the No. 1 bus to Harvard Square. Info: (617) 354-0133.

October 9-11 ♦ Friday-Sunday

AIDS Quilt Display, returns to Washington, DC. The quilt is to be displayed in its entirety on the Capitol Mall. More info to follow.

October 23-24 ♦ Friday-Saturday

2nd International Bisexual Conference, London, United Kingdom. [For details, see page 2.] Sliding scale registration fee from 0 to \$15. Info: F. Klein, M.D., 4545, Park Boulevard, Suite 207, San Diego, CA 92116.

October 24-25 ♦ Saturday-Sunday

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau Annual Training. All new speakers should mark this two-day training. Experienced speakers are also welcome. Location to be announced. Info: (617) 354-0133.

November 13-15 ♦ Friday-Sunday

5th Annual Creating Change Conference, by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. It will be held in the Los Angeles Airport Hilton in Los Angeles California. Registration forms must be postmarked and returned with payment by Friday October 23, 1992. For registration information, write Creating Change, NGLTF Policy Institute, 1734 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009-4309 or phone (202) 332-6483 (voice) or (202) 332-6219 (TTY).

Attention Cunning Linguists!

Daughter's of Bilitis Starting a New Theater!!

For all inspired thespians, technicians, and more! D.O.B.'s Theater accepting proposal: original material, actors, storytellers, stage crew, singers, musicians, comedienne, and volunteers. Spot lights, sound equipment, furniture, and computers are needed! The theater space seats 70 and a larger space is available if needed. D.O.B. offers tax receipts for donations as a non-profit organization. For information, call (617) 232-6519 (ask for Tally) or (617) 661-3633.



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Pay what you can

☐ Low income: \$12-15

☐ Steady Income: \$20

☐ Goddess-in-Training: \$50

☐ Goddess: \$75

☐ Matron Saint (WOW!): \$100

Send this form along with your
check to:

BBWN

P.O. Box 639

Cambridge, MA 02140

(from previous page)

♦ First and Third Thursdays

Bisexual Issues Rap Group
at the Women's Center, 614
Orange St., (corner of
Bishop) New Haven, Conn.
Please call to specify
wheelchair access or ASL
interpreting requirements.
Voice (203) 776-2658, TTY
and voice (203) 367-2381.

♦ Third Thursday of each month:

**Incest Survivors Facilitated
Meeting**, 7:30-9:30pm. Free.
At the Women's Center, 46
Pleasant St., Cambridge.
Info: (617) 354-8807.

♦ Fridays:

Steppin' Out on Broadway,
Country/Western dances for
Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals
and Friends. 8pm dance
lessons. 9pm-midnight:
Texas two-step, Swing, and
Line dancing. Smoke/
alcohol-free, juice bar, DJ.
Admission \$5. At "On
Broadway," 880 Broadway,
Somerville. Info: Dee at (617)
562-0294.



CALENDAR

*For Ongoing
Events, see pages
10 and 11*

◆
D.O.B. (Daughters
of Bilitis) members
are interested in
recreating an
intellectually social
interactive space
a la Gertrude Stein's
famous salon. All
women welcome.

Speakers/
comediennes wanted
for future lectures/
discussions. For
women only. See July
29 listing in the
calendar for the first
event.

◆
September 28

Monday:

**BBWN Volunteer
Night**

Help stuff the
Oct./Nov. issue of
BiWomen! See old
friends, make new
ones. It really is fun,
especially a lot of
women show up! You
can read BiWomen hot
off the press!

7-10pm. At the new
ECBN office, 95
Berkeley St., Suite 613.



July 29 ♦ Wednesday

Linguistic Clitorectomy, an evening of scholarly insight into women's sexuality. The suppression of clitoral symbolism will be exposed in psychoanalytic theory and literature from the 19th century to the present. Women-only event. 8pm at D.O.B., 1151 Mass. Ave. (Old Cambridge Baptist Church) near Harvard T stop on the Red line. Info: (617) 661-3633 or 232-6519.



August 2 ♦ Sunday

Bi Space, is a friendly rap space to meet other bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at 95 Berkeley Street in Boston. This is about three blocks from the Arlington St. T stop on the green line. Parking is limited. A \$2 donation is requested. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

August 6 ♦ Thursday

Sixth Annual Public Forum of the Fenway Community Health Center 6:30-8:30pm at the Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St. There will be speakers on many subjects, including HIV, risk factors, natural history, research, and the International AIDS Conference. Info: (617) 0900 ext. 399.

August 7-9 ♦ Friday-Sunday

Bisexual Writers Retreat, near Philadelphia, Penn. \$50 per person. Info: Drew Lewis at (617) 536-5127 or write c/o BBMN, P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140.

August 8 ♦ Saturday

(Another) Biversity Boston Beach Outing at Singing Beach. Reserve the date now — for further information call (617) BIS-MOVE.

August 11-16 ♦ Tuesday-Sunday

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. One to six days, \$35-205, depending on number of days, date of registration, and ability to pay. Info: WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458. (616) 757-4766 V/TTY after June 10.

August 18 ♦ Saturday

Biversity Monthly Bi Brunch, 11am at the S&S Deli, 1334 Cambridge Street, Inman Square, Cambridge. Be early, since we can be seated only if everyone is there.

August 20 ♦ Thursday

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau Meeting *canceled*.

August 28-30 ♦ Friday-Sunday

Tenth National Bisexual Conference, Norwich, England. A conference for all bisexuals, their partners, friends, allies, and anyone with a positive interest in bisexuality. Sliding scale £12 and up. Early registration is Thursday August 27. For registration and information, write: Conference Registrations, c/o BIFROST, P.O. Box 117, Norwich NR1 2SU, England.



September 4-7 ♦ Friday-Monday

11th International Convention of PFLAG, Seattle, Wash., at the Seattle Hilton Hotel. Conference theme: Love in Action, Joy in Diversity. Workshops include overcoming homophobia, diversity, spouses coming out, AIDS, teen suicide prevention. The issue of whether to change the name of PFLAG to include Bisexuals will be discussed. Info: Ardyce Fish (206) 763-4575. Seattle Hilton: (800) 426-0535. Rooms \$80-108 for 1-4 people.

September 6 ♦ Sunday

Bi Space, is a friendly rap space to meet other bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at 95 Berkeley Street in Boston. This is about three blocks from the Arlington St. T stop on the green line. Parking is limited. A \$2 donation is requested. For info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

September 13 ♦ Sunday

5th Annual Provincetown Harbor Swim for Life AIDS benefit at the Boatslip, 161 Commercial St., Provincetown, MA. For swimmer pledge sheets and registration, and boater and volunteer sign up please call or write: Swim for Life, P.O. Box 819, Provincetown, MA 02657, (617) 487-3684.

September 14 ♦ Monday

BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30-9:30pm. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. A safe place for women to connect with the bi community. Info: 354-8807.



September 16 ♦ Wednesday

BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting. 7:30pm at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. This is a very important meeting (see page 2). Please mark it in your calendar now! We need to come together to discuss decisions that are being made about the future of the Network. Share your ideas! Please come! Info: (617) 247-6683.

September 17 ♦ Thursday

Safer Streets Workshop, presented jointly by the Fenway Community Health Center and the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau. Participants will learn to be safety-aware. Learn basic techniques to help you avoid dangerous situations; strategies for dealing with attackers; and basic self-defense techniques. 7-9:30pm. Info: (617) 354-0133.

September 18 ♦ Friday

Deadline for the Oct./Nov. Issue of the BBWN Newsletter! Get your ideas, art, and letters onto paper and in the mail to us! Don't you want to be famous?



September 28 ♦ Monday

BBWN Newsletter Stuffing, at the new EBN office (95

CALENDAR continues on page 11

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Printed on
recycled paper

What Did You Learn in School Today?

by Robyn Ochs

Fifteen officially registered students and two auditors (representing every sexual orientation identity group) took the third-ever course on bisexuality, offered this time at Tufts University in Medford, Mass. The course, entitled *Contexts and Constructs of Identity: Bisexuality*, was offered through Tufts' Experimental College and taught by Robyn Ochs. A variety of topics related to bisexuality were covered, including definitions; models of sexuality; a look at the research on bisexuality; images of bisexuals in the mainstream; bisexuality in US communities of color; legal, social and public policy issues for bisexuals; bisexuality from a cross-cultural perspective; history of the US bisexual movement, bisexuals, and "lesbian/gay" communities; bisexuality through the lens of women's

School, continues on page 11

Wanting It All

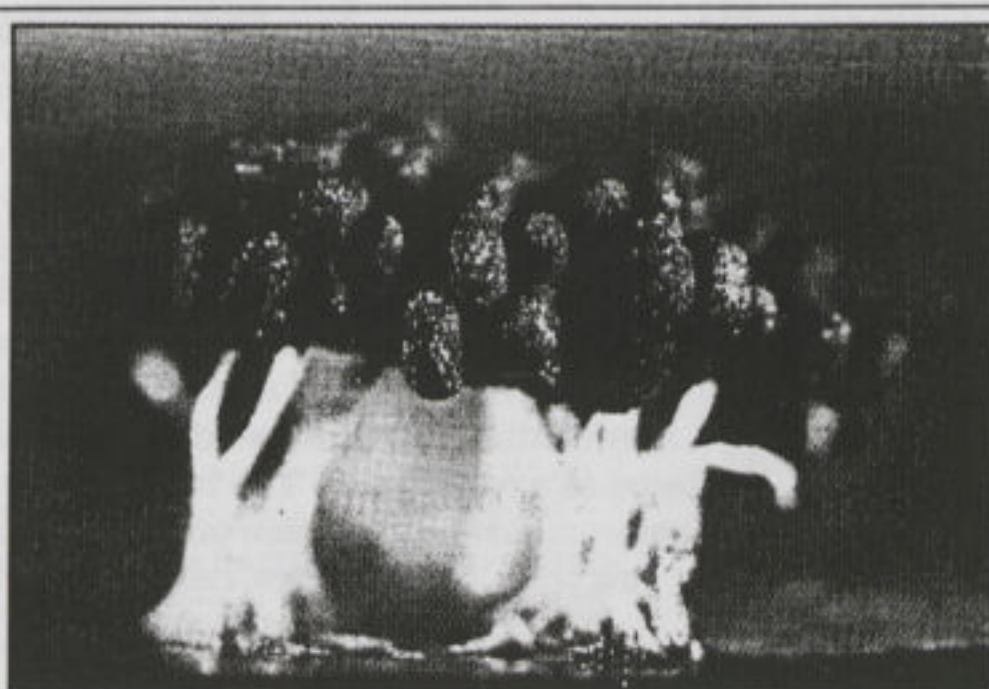
by Josefina

One thing we hear a lot as bisexuals is the myth that we cannot possibly be satisfied or happy if we are not involved with one person of each gender at the same time. This is confusing bisexuality with non-monogamy. There is no one definition for what being bisexual is. It means many different things to many different people and THAT'S JUST ONE OF THE MANY THINGS THAT MAKES BISEXUALITY WONDERFUL!! To me, a bisexual woman of color (not one, not two, but **three**, count them, **three** blessings), being bi means LOVING WHOMEVER I CHOOSE (however i choose, whenever i choose and for whatever reason i choose). Is that simple enough? I also happen to be non-monogamous. Now, don't get confused. I know many a proud monogamous bisexual individual who choose to be "involved," whatever that may mean, with only one person at a time. And that's okay. I'm biased and i must say that it doesn't make much sense to me, just like heterosexuality doesn't seem to jell. In any case, monogamous or straight, i respect someone for who s/he is and not for what or how they identify.

Why is it, however, that non-monogamy is stigmatized by whomever, as something less than the ideal of a long-term relationship with only one individual? This seems to come up in all worlds, queer and straight. The thought is no longer that i'm confused and don't know if i'm lesbian or straight, but that i'm insecure because i don't want to and can't commit myself to only one other individual. Yes, i'm insecure, but what does that have to do with any kind of desire that i'm **supposed** to have to be monogamous. And i do want to have a long-term relationship with someone, maybe two people, of any gender. I know an absolutely beautiful and to-die-for gay man of color who

Wanting It All continues on page 10

No, this is not another one of those conference group photos. This is from a recent *Science* magazine, spotted by Sue, our very own resident scientist and typist extraordinaire.



A rule-breaker. Slime molds have 13 sexes, but is this arrangement stable?

BBWN News

Honor Roll

Laura S.
 Susan R.
 Jayne S.
 Sharon G.
 Janet M.
 Hilary L.
 Rebecca K.
 Annie S.
 Stephanie B.
 Lori P.
 Gail Z.
 Robyn O.
 Mary R.
 Marjorie B.
 Sue W.
 Cathleen F.
 Laura P.
 Kathleen H.
 Susan S.
 Peggy F.
 Meg H.
 Liz H.
 Marcia D.
 Ann G.
 Claire M.
 Patricia C.

Amanda U.-K.
 Linda B.

BiWomen is published bi-monthly.

Your Editors:

Kathleen Hepburn
 Susan Schiefelbein

Busy Bee

Contributors:

Laura Perez
 Marcia Deihl
 Robyn Ochs
 Kathleen Hepburn
 Laura Sachs
 Stephanie Berger
 Julie F.
 Josefina
 Anna Rampage
 Karen F.
 Sharon

Boston Bisexual Women's Network General Meeting

Who are we? Where are we going? Where do we want to go? How do we get there? These were the questions addressed at the BBWN General Meeting held at the Women's Center in Cambridge on Sept. 16. A very energized discussion produced lots of ideas, raised concerns, and gave some guidance to the handful of hardworking women who keep the network running.

- We seem to be just a newsletter; we should be more (e.g., social events, rap groups).
- Many people just don't want to be active; just want to get newsletter.
- We are a safe haven. We need space to come together, cohere, then go out and be visible.
- We need more interaction with other groups (e.g., ACT UP!). EBN and Biversity are umbrella groups, yet we aren't connecting.
- We started out as a support group, but we're no longer doing that successfully. Intro. meetings would turn into small support groups.
- Hard to define who we are because bi means so many things.
- We must be sensitive to others' definitions of bi, and new women's feelings. It's hard to connect when you're new to the group. Intro. meetings shouldn't be, "This is what bi is."
- Small support groups make us fragmented.
- We need space to talk about issues, such as multicultural diversity, more politics.
- We have bi rap; we could have political action discussions; or something in between the two. Just to talk.
- Volunteer nights used to be every month. Why not now?
- Newsletter stuffing can be clique-ish and/or boring. We need more gatherings.
- Newsletter needs to be women's space; not just issues.
- Get together are great - not necessarily to do work, just to see each other.
- We need to meet more often. Every other week? Will make it easier to coordinate events.
- BBWN is a place to come home to.
- We need more marketing and outreach; articles in other rags; bi-lesbian connections.
- Perceptions from a new BBWN member: Not looking for just a support group (coming out). Been out for years. Been gay in the straight world; been bi in the lesbian world. Looking for support, a base from which to do political work.

- Fallow time can be good. Time to think, regroup, re-evaluate.
- Need loosely structured gatherings - w/o commitment of support group, w/o work of working group.
- BBWN potluck ran out of steam.
- Political group would be great.
- Monthly event ideas: authors in Closer to Home reading followed by discussion. Every other month an open discussion.
- BBWN potluck brunches again. Potluck good because many can't afford the combined network brunches at restaurants.
- Big 10th Birthday Party!!!
- One organizing meeting a month. Events to go on hotline number (BIS-MOVE).
- Two meetings: One for organizing, one for socializing.
- Make meetings accessible: rotate location (Boston/Cambridge).
- Don't conflict with Biversity events.
- Rotate brunch locations.
- Alternate Organizing vs. Newsletter Stuffing meetings; alternate Topic vs. Open discussion meetings.
- What does "Organizational" mean? Opening mail? Answering phone calls? We need committed volunteers for specific jobs.
- Let's be cautious and not bite off more than we can chew...

Next General Meeting: Thursday October 1 at 7pm at the new Bi Office, 95 Berkeley St. Suite 613, Boston.

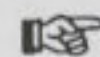
BBWN Potluck brunches:

Saturday Oct. 10 at 11am at Lori's in Jamaica Plain. For directions: (617) BIS-MOVE.

Saturday Dec. 12 at 12 noon at Robyn's in Central Sq. (Cats, no smoke). Info: (617) BIS-MOVE

Discussion meeting: Rebecca Kaplan reads from her essay in Closer to Home: Bisexuality and Feminism. Sunday, Nov. 8, 5pm at 1A Watson St. (corner Broadway), Teele Sq. in Somerville. Potluck (meat-free). Info: (617) 776-7163.

Newsletter stuffs: Monday, Nov. 30, and Monday, Jan. 25, 7pm at the Bi Office.



DEADLINE for the Dec./Jan. issue:

Friday, November 13, 1992

All submissions in writing, please, and include a name and phone number if possible. If you do not want your name published, please tell us! Otherwise we may assume that you do not mind being listed as a contributor. You may contribute anonymously, or just use your first name if you wish. Send articles, calendar entries, letters, art, news and views to:

BiWomen, BBWN
 P.O. Box 639
 Cambridge, MA 02140

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

Letters

8/23/92

Hi to all at BBWN!

It's been a long time since I've been able to see anyone.

Life has been a bit more than hectic and a tad crazy for me and my family.

My daughter has gone to live with her grandmother in Ohio, who was here in May when all services of D.S.S. and Pembroke Hospital broke down.

We are all learning to deal with stress and all—I will be going out to see Christina in October for two weeks. I'll be there for her 13th birthday.

She is in therapy out there, and has one-on-one with Grandma, so she is doing better. I hope the school system and all will help her this year. She has a lot to sort out and a lot of growing up to do. Physically she is a beautiful young lady, but maturity is lacking. She needs to know how to care again and to trust and love. To accept me and the illness I have.

It's been one of the toughest summers of my life. I can now talk again. I spent many hours and days at Braintree rehab for speech therapy. It was a bad experience. Now I'm doing much better and will start on physical therapy soon. I will win in the end. I'll never give up.

I've still made it to P-town four times so far and enjoyed it so much.

Hope everyone else had a positive and fun summer. Take care.

My warmest wishes to all,

[Redacted Signature]

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

Dear BiWomen,

June '92

Happy Pride Week!

I'm writing concerning your article [BiWomen April/May 1992] about the NJ Lesbian and Gay Coalition. I'm sorry, but they are neither the only, nor the first such organization. When GCSS [Gay Community Social Services] formed in 1972 in Seattle it was one of three in existence at that time. It started quite small, and is still growing. SBWN joined the 'umbrella' several years ago.

Sincerely,

Peggy Walsh

Dear Women,

I'm a bisexual part-Native American woman of color. I consciously realized and accepted that I like(d girls and) women when I was twelve or thirteen. As a young girl, I had always accepted a certain relationship with boys, but liking girls was more momentous at its inception, and somehow that seemed fitting of the particular beauty that girl-to-girl/woman-to-woman relationships possess.

I had my share of negative experiences with boys and men in childhood and early adulthood, but when I got the chance to choose a new relationship with a man after these learning experiences, I chose well. I've been in a relationship with a man named Carl for nine years now. He is a wonderful being. We love each other very much, and he's very good to me. I told Carl early on in our relationship that I love women, and he accepted that and chose to continue building a relationship with me. We got married six years ago in a spiritual ceremony. The last two years have been the best. We are on solid ground.

I learned of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network last year, in the book *Bi Any Other Name*. I was also prompted last fall to write an experimental edition of a newsletter that I called *Bisexual Native and Women of Color*. I include a copy for your perusal. I'd been thinking of writing to BBWN soon, and then a woman at a lesbian spiritual ceremony gave me a copy of the Feb/Mar 92 issue of BiWomen. I read it when I got back home, and I was quite impressed with the content.

I've always admitted to myself that I like(d girls and) women. I also admitted it to white girls and women whom I liked. For years I didn't admit it to Native and women of color to whom I was attracted, because I grew up away from Native and people of color, and didn't want to risk alienating those I met by raising the specter of lesbian attraction. Thankfully, those days are over. I now have a "business card" I give out in organizing work, which states that I work for the rights of sexual preference. That gives folks a hint that I'm at least gay-positive, if not lesbian or bisexual myself, and something to ask about if they wish to delve into it further with me.

Four years ago, I also made first contact with the lesbian community in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where I lived for seven years. I especially connected with the Native and women of color in the community. As I began coming out "publicly," I thought I must be becoming lesbian. Nothing I read, no one I spoke to acknowledged bisexuality as a valid identity goal. I saw only vague and/or disparaging references to bisexuality in the gay and lesbian literature I read. It was the writing

Letters continue on next page



Our address:

BiWomen

BBWN

P.O. Box 639

Cambridge, MA

02140



Here are some comments that came in with renewal forms for BiWomen:

"Starving Student Member"

"Hi Women! Last year I was a Goddess-in-training but now I'm going to grad school and have no income. But I still want to hear from you!"

"I look forward to hooking up with the Western Mass. Group I keep reading about. Thanks for letting me know they're there!"

"I certainly need and enjoy the reading!"

"Please tell me what an out-of-towner can help with."

"Even though your group is Boston-based, I love your newsletter and have to subscribe!"

Bisexuality Documentary Planned

Call for Participants

I am seeking participants for a documentary currently being produced on bisexuality. I am bisexual and am politically active in the bi community. The program highlights bisexuality as an individual's choice and as a viable sexual identity. The film's objective is to educate people about the true aspects of this lifestyle and help dispel misconceptions about the issue.

There has been a lot of support for this endeavor in the Boston and New York communities, and I would like to reach other people from around the country. It's important to include as much diversity in age, race, gender, and personal philosophy as possible in order to fairly represent the bisexual issue. Therefore I make this plea... for all the brave souls to respond who have something to say or share on this issue... regardless of what it is, I DO WANT TO HEAR IT!!! Especially if you're 50+ years of age and consider yourself bisexual or are part of a bisexual relationship I truly would like to hear your point of view.

I welcome all those who are seriously interested in participating and/or obtaining more information to contact Jayne Sportelli at (617) 734-0863, or write to 125 Western Ave., Boston, MA 02134.

Thanks... hope to hear from you!!

Letters, from preceding page

by Native people about the history of homosexuality traditionally in Native cultures which made me realize that some of the descriptions of partners of homosexual people they wrote of sounded like me, sounded bisexual. Through the years, it was knowledge of the existence and acceptance of homosexuality in African and American Indian cultures that I'd looked for, in order to feel that my own love for women was not somehow misguided or misshapen by the dominant culture I grew up in. Once I found that, and an illusion to bisexuality to boot, I was home free!

Now, four years later, I've had my first intimate relationship with another woman. It was short-lived, but significant for me. She is lesbian, and had not known of the possibility of a woman (like me) being lovingly married to a man but also loving women and desiring a committed, long-term relationship with a woman as well as with her own husband. My lover had been single for five or six years, and was a little hasty in deciding initially to be with me. And I was hasty, too, after twenty-two years of wanting and waiting. I'd like more lesbians to learn of this possibility so that they can become educated to it as an option, if not for every woman, at least for some women, who shouldn't be or feel ridiculed for considering or for exercising it as an option.

I understand the pull of monogamy. I started my relationship with Carl believing strongly in monogamy. As my feelings for women regained their pre-Carl intensity, I had to look at what was possible. For me, loving Carl and loving a woman is possible. It also seems to be acceptable to Carl. It's also possible that once I have an on-going, intimate relationship with a woman, I may find it to be more compelling, more fulfilling than my relationship with Carl has been, and I may choose to be with her exclusively. But I do love men, and I can't honestly predict that I'll stop loving men once I've found love with a woman. So I present myself to women that way, so they won't be misled. And, of course, I accept the option of duogamy for any woman or man with whom I share a relationship.

For now, I believe in the possibility of duogamy for myself. It is and has been a reality for other bisexual (and homo- and heterosexual) people. My goal is to share a committed, long-term relationship of love with another woman, while very possibly still continuing such a relationship with Carl. I plan to have children, and I believe that Carl will be a very good father and parenting partner, whether he and I stay married and/or stay lovers or not.

I know that life is spiritual, and that love is spiritual. For the past four years, I have helped

with and attended a Native American Sundance ceremony that was started and is lead by lesbian Lakota (Sioux) Indian women. It's been my dream and prayer to meet other woman-loving Native and women of color in a spiritual way, and this ceremony has been a first answer to that.

I cannot afford right now to pay for a subscription to BiWomen, but please let me know if BBWN still publishes a directory of international bisexual groups, so that I can order a copy from you. Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Marie Douglas

Her newsletter:

BINAWOC (Bisexual Native and Women of Color), P.O. Box P.O. 2253, Prescott, AZ 86302



Resources for Counter-Quincentenary Action

- Activists protesting the quincentenary of Christopher Columbus's genocide of Native peoples in the Americas can get a study/action packet from the Racial Justice Working Group 1992, c/o National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. A packet of one to nine copies of material costs \$9.

- A directory of international organizations working on counter-quincentenary activities is available from the South and Meso American Indian Foundation Information Center, P.O. Box 28703, Oakland, CA 94604.

- Some of the many grassroots groups involved with the protest of Christopher Columbus include:

- American Indian Movement, 1308 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404

- 500 Years of Resistance Coalition, P.O. Box 8901, Denver, CO 80201

- Indigenous Women's Network, P.O. Box 174, Lake Elmo, MN 55042

- Women Against Imperialism, 2543 18th St., Box 14, San Francisco, CA 94110

- Alternative Quincentenary Understanding and Action, Boston, MA. Horace Seldon, (617) 262-5536 or 523-0555.

- 500 Years Coalition, Boston, MA. Ellen Kaye, (617) 742-4340. Jimmy Two-Feathers, (508) 371-2502.

- from the September issue of *Sojourner: The Women's Forum*



Cool..... Comics

Check out the article, "Comic Books as Educational Tools," by Jeannie Gielty in the Sept. 1992 issue of *Sojourner*. Here are some excerpts from her review of several of a new wave of comic books that have been specifically designed to educate readers about issues of social responsibility—with each of the comic books having heroic female characters.

The Asian American Comic Book is a wonderfully drawn, historically accurate comic book featuring four diverse stories related to Asian American history.


Anti-Social for the Disabled is a comic book that [features] a group called The

Infirmary Four: Blindman, Mr. Wheels, Deaf Girl, and the Human Crutch—people with disabilities who fight for their rightful place in society.


Another comic book on people with disabilities, *The New Warriors*, stars Silhouette, a differently abled, African-American woman who battles evil in the world.

Choices: A Pro-Choice Benefit Comic, edited by Trina Robbins, is filled with comics on issues related to abortion. A must-read.


Before...I Used to be Scared is an educational comic book about HIV designed by an incarcerated woman named Suzanne Triano. It contains information and instruction concerning AIDS.

more info 

For ordering information, contact the following organizations:

- *The Asian American Book*: AARW, 34 Oak St., 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02111. (617) 426-5313
- *Anti-Social for the Disabled*: New England Comics, 12B Eliot St., Cambridge, MA 02138. (617) 354-5352
- *The New Warriors (Part 4)*: Marvel Comics, Subscription Dept., 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016
- *Choices: A Pro-Choice Benefit Comic*: Angry Isis, 1982 15th St., San Francisco, CA 94114
- *Before...I Used to be Scared*: Delaware Council on Crime and Justice, 501 Shipley St., Wilmington, DE 19801. (302) 658-7174 

Sexual Minorities Archives Opens

The New Alexandrian Lesbian Library has announced that it is broadening its collection focus. NALL will now be one of the collections within the new Sexual Minorities Archives. The Archives will collect materials pertaining to all sexual minorities, including lesbians, gay men, transsexuals, transvestites, S/M, and leatherfolk. Add your story to the Archives — books, flyers, buttons, stickers and memorabilia of all types is encouraged. All researchers and supporters are welcome to visit! Located in Northampton, MA. Call (413) 584-7616 for an appointment or for more information. 

Advertise in BiWomen!

For only \$10 per issue, your message will reach over 700 subscribers. Save \$5 and advertise in three issues for \$25.


Send your business-card sized ad and a check to:

BiWomen, c/o BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

Such a deal!

Sisters Circle

Peace to all.


Dear Sisters, Womyn, Women, Witches, Healers, Networkers, Midwives, Activists, Artists, Daughters, Mothers, Grandmothers, and all others involved in healing ourselves, our Mother Earth and her inhabitants, 

Sistercircle Network began in 1986 at the Sisters Circle of the Rainbow Gathering in Pennsylvania. Certainly Sisters were networking before this time, but we developed a list to do so then...

New England Women's Spirituality Network (NEWSN) was birthed the same year by four women who were involved in studying women's spirituality and witchcraft in a course given by the Women's School of Cambridge, Mass.

Sistercircle and NEWSN have combined and grown steadily over the years to include an international circle of women of many paths and many talents who are all active in some level of positive change, transformation and healing.

Our resource list is only available by showing a commitment to the network's purpose. We ask that you write a letter about yourself and send a (long) self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply. The list is now over twenty pages... please send as many extra stamps as you can to help it return to you.

In the spirit of growth, networking, education, transformation and love... write Sistercircle, c/o Roberta Hayes, 51 Fort Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119. 



Are You Of a Like Mind?

Of a Like Mind is an international network of spiritual women, dedicated to following positive paths to spiritual growth. Its focus is on women's spirituality, Goddess religions, paganism, and our earth connections, from a feminist perspective. Membership (including a monthly newsletter) runs \$18-38 sliding scale. For more information write OALM, Box 6021, Madison, WI 53716; or phone us at (608) 838-8629.

BiNet Establishes Consensus-Based Structure

Process and Groundrules agreed upon at the July 24-25 BiNet meeting

Process:

When it appears that the group is nearing consensus or when a participant has asked that the group move to consensus the facilitator will ask:

- 1) Is there any further discussion?
- 2) Are there any objections? (Does anyone wish to stand aside?)
- 3) Do we have consensus?

Groundrules:

- 1) Don't speak out of turn. The facilitator will 'stack.' (stack: the facilitator will recognize hands in the order they were raised and participants will speak in turn.)
- 2) The facilitator will verbalize the stack.
- 3) Say your name when you speak.
- 4) Self facilitate.
- 5) Don't repeat. Say ditto when someone has already stated your point.



(to next page)

Riding a swelling wave of Bisexual activism, BiNet USA held its 3rd annual meeting in Minneapolis on July 25-26 and transformed itself from a confederated network into a full-fledged national organization.

Attended by 55 representatives from Bisexual organizations around the country, BiNet established a consensus-based governing structure designed to represent the diversity of its membership and to be empowering for all its constituents. Hosted at the Playwrite Center by The BiConnection, a Twin Cities Bisexual organization, the results of the two-day meeting were characterized by co-chair Lou Hoffman, "We have taken a giant step toward our goals of increasing Bi visibility and political power."

Major strides were also taken in advancing the mission of BiNet to work for the civil rights and liberation of Bisexual people. Besides on-going national working groups on HIV/AIDS, and a Newsletter editorial committee, task forces tackled concerns such as multiculturalism, transgenderism, anti-sexism education, sex positive advocacy, resources for Bisexual relationships, and support for the 1993 March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation as well as Stonewall 25 and Gay Games.

BiNet established an inclusive membership policy and structure, and nominated 18 interim delegates from nine regions of the country who will quickly organize regional meetings to elect official delegates. Each region—New England, New York, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Southwest, Ohio Valley, North Central, California, and Northwest—has two delegates who serve on a national steering committee which, along with six national coordinators, will run the national organization between annual meetings. The national coordinators include well known Bisexual leaders such as Lani Kaahumanu and Loraine Hutchins, as well as long time activists, Gary Lingen, Ben Factory, Debra Kolodny, and Luigi Ferrer.

Reflecting concerns for a full participation by traditionally disenfranchised people, BiNet instituted policies to insure equitable participation based on race and gender. The elected leadership also reflects a balance of geographic, HIV status, age, and class considerations.

According to veteran activist Michael Beer, "The formation of a truly representative na-

tional organization proves that our movement is not a flash in the pan—we are here, we are queer, and we are not going away."

BiNet USA is an organization that works for the equal rights and liberation of Bisexuals. It is dedicated to eradicating all forms of oppression inside as well as outside the Bisexual community.

Gary Lingen and Loraine Hutchins

BiNet structure agreed upon at the BiNet U.S.A. 3rd Annual Meeting Minneapolis, July 24-26, 1992

Structure

Membership:

Individual Membership:

Membership is open to all individuals who endorse our Statement of Purpose. Membership fees are based on a sliding scale with a minimum suggested annual membership fee of \$1 per \$1000 of annual income. Please be as generous as you can.

Affiliate Membership:

Membership is open to groups which endorse our Statement of Purpose. A sliding scale fee of \$25-\$100 per year is suggested. Please be as generous as possible.

Governing Structure:

The structure consists of three concentric circles. The first and largest circle includes the general membership. The second circle consists of 18 regional delegates (two elected from each of nine regions). The third and last circle is made up of six national coordinators who will perform administrative functions (treasury, mail, paperwork) and will communicate with regional representatives on a regular basis.

The regional delegate body and the group of six national coordinators will have proportional representation for self-identified women and self-identified People of Color (POC), while striving toward 50% representation by self-identified women and self-identified POC. Interim regional delegates and national coordinators were appointed at the 1992 meeting, July 26. Interim regional delegates are charged with the responsibility of organizing regional structure and holding elections for regional delegates as soon as possible. Regional delegates will serve staggered terms. Of the two new delegates elected in each

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region, one will serve until the summer of 1994 and the other will serve until the summer of 1995. Elections for national coordinators will be held again at the 1993 meeting. The regional delegates and national coordinators will agree on the scope of decision making authority for the national coordinators. The regional delegates and national coordinators will, at a minimum, facilitate meetings. Responsibilities to be distributed among the national coordinators and regional delegates are:

Co-chairs (facilitate meetings), Newsletter Editor, Public Information/Media Contact, Membership, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian/Archivist, Special Events Coordinator (i.e. March on Washington), National Meeting Organizer, Inclusivity Secretary

Other responsibilities will be identified and distributed as the need arises. It has been suggested that three of the national coordinators take the responsibilities associated with the roles of president, secretary, and treasurer, and that the other three serve as replacements for these duties should the original designee be unable to serve. The latter three organizers would also be responsible for maintaining regular contact with regional delegates (each responsible for three regions).

Procedure used for election of national coordinators: Nominations were open to everyone. It was strongly suggested that participants vote for no more than one person who was not present at the conference. The gender, ethnicity, HIV status, and geographic location of each nominee was identified to help achieve our goals of diverse representation. Each participant was allowed to place one vote each for their top six choices. One alternate was named for each elected coordinator who was not present at the meeting. (One coordinator, Lani Kaahumanu, was not present. Lou Hoffman, who was seventh runner, was selected as an alternate in the event that Lani refused the position.—Update—Lani did accept the position.) For this election, persons were allowed both to serve as interim regional

delegates and to run for positions as national coordinators. One cannot serve as a regional delegate and as a national coordinator concurrently.

National meetings will be conducted by the groundrules adopted at the 1992 meeting [see *side columns*]. We strongly suggest that the ground rules adopted during this conference be used in regional meetings.

National Coordinators: ben factory (206) 324-7042; Debra Kolodny (301) 434-1248; Gary Lingen (612) 488-1009; Lani Kaahumanu (415) 812-3534; Loraine Hutchins (202) 882-4384; Luigi Ferrer (305) 667-7601

Interim Regional Delegates: *Northeast:* Ann G. and Laura Perez; *Tri-State:* Liann T. and Dan W.; *Mid-Atlantic:* Debra Kolodny and Loraine Hutchins; *Southeast:* Julie Firman and Luigi Ferrer; *North Central:* Melissa and Jack; *Midwest:* Jeff O. and Artemis G.; *Southwest:* Debra Dickson and Ivone; *South Pacific:* Brad R. and Gary North; *Northwest:* ben factory and Peggy W.

Definitions of Regions by State: (Note: The regions defined below are a starting point. We encourage groups and individuals within each region to talk with neighboring regions to correct any glaring errors on boundaries.)

NE: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island; *Tri-State:* New York, New Jersey, Connecticut; *Mid-Atlantic:* Maryland, D.C., Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware; *SE:* North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands; *Central:* Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri; *Midwest:* Minnesota, Upper Michigan, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Kansas City; *SW:* Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas; *S. Pacific* (grin!): California, Hawaii, Guam; *NW:* Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming

Contacts for Focus Groups: *Anti-Sexism:* Sherry and Christopher; *Multicultural Issues:* ben factory; *National Task Force on Bisexuality*

and AIDS: Michael Beer, Misha Williams, Luigi Ferrer, Gary North, Laura Perez; *Transgenderism:* Artemis; *Representation at National Gatherings:* Gary North, Michael Beer, Laura Perez (note: Autumn Courtney is our regional rep. for M.O.W.); *Sex Positivism/Sex Radicalism:* Melinda Brown; *Bi Relationships:* Sherry

- from Julie through the magic of e-mail

▼
(from previous page)

6) Snap or 'sparkle' (applause in American Sign Language) when you agree. Don't clap or speak out.

7) Be brief.

8) Be respectful.

9) Keep focused.

10) Speak in 'I' terms.

11) Focus on closure.

12) No 'zaps' (derogatory personal comments).

13) Say 'ouch' when it hurts. (If someone says something that insults or offends you, you may say 'ouch' and speak immediately on what bothered you and why.)

14) Use friendly amendments if appropriate.

15) One cannot block consensus without an alternative.

16) Accept decisions you can live with. Don't debate minutia.

17) Speak about 'small stuff' outside the meeting.

18) Standing aside is an option. (If you cannot support the consensus statement but do not wish to block consensus you may stand aside.)

19) Everyone is equal.

20) Time limit on discussions. This can be extended with group consensus.

21) This process and groundrules will be mailed out so that people not present understand it, and it will be used at future national meetings.

22) It is strongly recommended that this process be used at regional meetings.

NINA CARROLL, M.D.
OBSTETRICIAN / GYNECOLOGIST

WOMEN-CARE, INC.
180 MASS. AVE.
ARLINGTON, MA 02174

(617) 648-4221
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Queer Zine Explosion

by Karen F. and
Anna Rampage

We just wanted to clear up some misinformation which you passed along in the last issue of BiWomen [August/September 1992]. We are two Boston-area zine editors and can assure you that zines are **not** solely contributor-driven as you wrongly stated in your sidebar. Rather, they are highly individual publications whose editors decide what they want to publish and how they want the zine to look. The publication which you referred to as a zine is actually an APA, which is a photocopied collection of its members' works, put together with no editing and then sent back to those same members. The only bi-APA we know of is *BiAngles*.

In the past few years, the queerzine scene has exploded. Early pioneers such as JDs were based primarily on the punk scene stemming from the fanzine scene, but these days the focus has broadened greatly. There are still music zines, but there are also sexzines, SMzines, comiczines, AIDSzines, girlzines, boyzines and even a few bizines floating around. Some titles include *Cunt*, *Brat Attack*, *Diseased Pariah News*, *Holy Tit Clamps*, *Adventures of Baby Dyke*, *Hot Head Paison*, *Screambox*, *Strange Looking Exile*, and *Bimbox*. Particularly bipoisitive zines include *Frighten the Horses*, *Taste of Latex*, *Logomotive* (all sexzines), *Fucktooth*, *Pussy Grazer*, and two of Boston's own, *Bi Girl World* and *Mousie*. Zines can usually be found at local queer bookstores, although they come and go pretty quickly, as well as ordered directly from the editor. Write to Larry-Bob, editor of *Holy Tit Clamps*, for his exhaustive listing "Queer Zine Explosion" (and include two 29¢ stamps). Larry-Bob, Box 591275, San Francisco, CA 94159-1275. In Boston, zines can be found at Glad Day, Trident Bookseller, Tower Records, and Primal Scream.

Zines are at the forefront of current queer culture which seems to have more room in it for bis, transsexuals — anybody who's "different" — than the old mainstream gay culture did. There is a great deal of outreach and dialogue happening in zines; content-wise zines can run the gamut from mostly fiction and poetry to off-the-wall ranting and raving by the editor to appropriated miscellanea. Styles range from Xeroxed grunge to state-of-the-art desk-top

glitz. For a sampling of some of the more productive writing that has its roots in the zine scene, see *Discontents: New Queer Writers*, edited by Dennis Cooper.

As zine editors, we are always looking for material (and purchasers!) for our respective zines. *Mousie* is an outlet for musings about race and interracial relationships in the queer world and also seeks pictures of queer women of color, comics, dreams, reparté, poetry and fiction. *Bi Girl World* explores every facet of the modern bi girl in all her many incarnations. Included are book and movie recommendations, bifiction and poetry, various rantings and historical bi women of note. Send \$2 to the address below for a sample copy of either zine. Be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope when submitting work.

We hope this article inspires you to delve into the pulsating and volatile zine scene, truly in the vanguard of today's queer kulcha. ▼

<i>Bi Girl World</i>	<i>Mousie</i>
Karen F.	Anna Rampage
99 Newtonville Ave.	18 Dearborn St.
Newton, MA 02158	Medford, MA 02155

In the mail:

Two colleges have requested information from BBWN for their Career Development Center libraries, specifically to help their lesbian, gay and bisexual students. They are looking for information on: the workplace and legal issues (benefits, EEO statements); newsletters, resources and publications; professions and organizations owned by or accepting towards the l/g/b community; the job search process (resumes, interviewing); strategies on how to cope with AIDS discrimination and employment; military issues; and support groups. Send info to: Carlos Tejada, Career Counselor, Career Development Center, Grover Cleveland Hall 306, Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222-1095. Career Center, Attn: Dana Turner, 1 North College St., Carleton College, Northfield, MN 55057.

Bisexual Writers Retreat

This summer, the East Coast Bisexual Network sponsored a weekend-long Bisexual Writers Retreat at a youth hostel on the edge of a beautiful state park about an hour outside of Philadelphia.

Eighteen bisexual-identified writers, ages 23 to mid-40s, men and women, and of various backgrounds gathered for fellowship, for reading and discussing one another's works (both in print and aloud), and for workshops such as Writing Fiction, Writing Poetry, Writing About Sex, Writing Non-Fiction, and the Business of Writing (e.g. publishers and getting published). Alan Hamilton of EBCN sent us the following comments by some of the attendees.

When this weekend was first mentioned to me, I thought to myself that it would be an interesting thing to do, but that since I was going to be out of the country, there was no possibility that I was going to make it. Well, those plans were changed and I found myself with plenty of free time in August. So two days before the official deadline, I called up the organizers and was on my way to the writers weekend.

I feel like I've been writing most of my life.

Bi Writers continues on next page

Bi Writers, from preceding page

It started with daydreams and verbal stories. My dad used to sit at his typewriter and type down my stories. He also helped me along when I needed some encouragement. Once I entered school and learned to write on my own, I would hand write my stories and send them off to my grandfather, who would then tell me what was good or bad about them. Suddenly in high school, teachers stopped encouraging me to write fiction and only write essay type writings. I was never very good at essay writing and didn't write for almost a year.

In college, I took a creative writing course and started writing seriously again. After that course, I continued to write, although soon I was down to writing short poems.

In the past year, it has really started to bother me that I haven't been able to write. I had been writing one story for a few years and very little else.

So, here is my chance I figured. Two days in the country with twenty writers. If this couldn't put me in a literary mood, what could?

While I didn't have as much time to write as I'd hoped for, I did have some, and for the first time in a long time, I had something I could put down as an image in my journal. Image pieces are something I used to do during and after my creative writing class. They are just simple one- and two-page descriptions of a happening or an actual visual description.

At the writing fiction workshop I went to, there was an open discussion about how people go about writing. I got to talk about my problem with dialogue, and received helpful hints from people on different ways to approach writing dialogue. Also during this workshop, we were talking about where we get our ideas from, and while I was explaining some of the ways I tap into my subconscious, I had a sudden insight into what I was doing wrong in one of my pieces, and why I had been unable to write that piece to completion. This may well have been the best thing I got out of the workshop, as far as writing is concerned.

The other positive thing, as far as writing is concerned, is that we have decided to start up some sort of writers group in Boston where we would come together and maybe read aloud current pieces and do some constructive criticisms for each other. With something like this around, I am much more likely to keep writing. This also will help us design a better writers retreat when we do this again, since we will have had a years worth of practical experience.

While I haven't necessarily put my bisexuality together with my writer's side, it's good to see and talk to people that have. The more there is of us, the bigger we can make the market. Besides, it gave us all at least one starting point in common and put us in an atmosphere where we weren't alone in certain aspects of our writings.

On a more personal level, I received a certain amount of personal strength and independence. I'm not sure when or under which circumstances, but something about connecting with so many other bisexual writers did do something good for my soul.

As to whether I would recommend this weekend to others, ... definitely. I think everyone who went got some good things from the weekend. We will have more of these. Now that we've started, there is no reason to stop and every reason to continue.



Sharon

It was great to be around so many creative people. I was really impressed with the readings. Some very good writers here.

We got along well, processed well. Good group of people.

Food excellent, especially the chocolate.

Met some really interesting people and reconnected with a few I haven't seen in a long time.

Random memories: family style eating, house parents, rangers, lactose intolerance, broiled brownies, quote: "Excuse me, could someone get this tick off me, please?", pieces: "Embrace me, America", "Jail Is..." Invitation to a piercing, writing about sex, call for submissions, the women's room, sleep sacks, "where'd all these vegetables come from?", bunk beds, Bi Girl World, the Concise Encyclopaedia of Homosexuality, multiculturalism, deer, bunnies, horses, beautiful bodies, gentle people, sense of home, comfort, the individuals, the group, aardvark.



Mixed Race Women Anthology

Stories, poetry, interviews, photographs, journalism, oral stories, letters, and other material sought.

Submission guidelines: Mixed Race Anthology, Carol Camper, Sister Vision Press, P.O. Box 217, Sta. E, Toronto, Ontario, M6H 4E2 Canada. Deadline October 31.



Support the campaign for a hate-free Oregon

Fight a November Initiative which would prevent giving state or local money to groups who promote the rights of "homosexuals, pedophiles, sadists, and masochists." To help, contact them at P.O. Box 3343, Portland, OR 97208-3343; (503) 232-4501. For more information, call Janet Uttel in the Boston area at (617) 876-3874.

- from the
Cambridge
Lavender Alliance
P.O. Box 884
Cambridge, MA
02238

617-646-1473
40 Fayette Street
Arlington, MA 02174

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Ongoing Events

First Monday
(October-May):
Support Group for White Women Doing Anti-Racism Work. 6:30-8:30pm at the Women's Theological Center, 140 Clarendon St. (YWCA), 6th floor, Boston. Nearest T stops: Back Bay (Orange) and Copley (Green). Free, no reservations required, but a call to say you're coming would be appreciated. Info: (617) 536-8782.

Tuesdays:
Bisexual Women's Rap Group. 7:30pm-10pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

Wednesdays:
Say It, Sister! radio show on WMBR 88.1 FM (first on your FM dial!). 7:30-8:30pm. 10/7: Native American and Western Shoshone Indians. 10/14: Breast Cancer. 10/21: 1992 Election: What Women Want. 10/28: Fighting Street Harassment. Info: (617) 253-8810.

First Wednesday:
Incest Survivors' Thinktank. A discussion group for women on feminist and cultural theories and political strategies. Begins promptly at 7:15pm, ends 9:15pm. Info: Thinktank contact person at the Women's Center, (617) 354-8807.



(to next page)

CALENDAR, from page 12

November 9 ♦ Monday
BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30-9:30pm. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. A safe place for women to connect with the bi community. **Please call to confirm date:** (617) 354-8807.

November 13 ♦ Friday
Deadline for the Dec./Jan. Issue of the BBWN Newsletter! No kidding—please meet this deadline so that your faithful editors can get the newsletter to the printer *well* before Thanksgiving, so that your faithful printers can enjoy the holiday like the rest of us. Questions? Calendar dates? Call no later than **Friday the 13th** (or Thursday the 12th for the superstitious): Kathy at (617) 236-5978.

November 13-15 ♦ Friday-Sunday
5th Annual Creating Change Conference, by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. It will be held in the Los Angeles Airport Hilton in Los Angeles California. Registration forms must be postmarked and returned with payment by Friday October 23, 1992. For registration information, write Creating Change, NGLTF Policy Institute, 1734 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009-4309 or phone (202) 332-6483 (voice) or (202) 332-6219 (TTY).

November 21 ♦ Saturday
Monthly Bi Brunch, 11am. Call for location: (617) BIS-MOVE.

November 30 ♦ Monday
BBWN Volunteer Night: BiWomen newsletter stuffing, 7pm at the new Bi Office, 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, Boston. Be the first to read BiWomen hot off the press! **Please** help get the newsletter out to its anxiously awaiting subscribers! Meet old friends, make new friends. Even just an hour's help is appreciated.

December 5 ♦ Sunday
Regional (N.E.) meeting of the 1993 International March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, noon-4pm, Matlovich Society Office, 72 Pine St., Portland, Maine. Info: (617) 566-4296.

December 12 ♦ Saturday
BBWN Women's Potluck Brunch. 12 noon at Robyn's in Central Square, Cambridge. Directions, info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

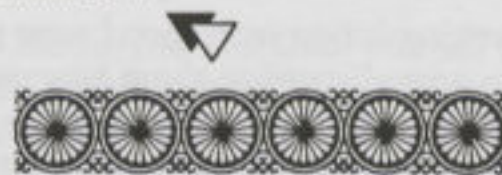
January 15-17, 1993
U.S. Organizing Meeting for the International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People. (Coincides with worldwide celebration of Stonewall 25.) Dallas, Texas. Info: 208 West 13th St., Ny, NY 10011-7799. Call: Nicole Ramirez Murray, (619) 528-5800 and 692-1967.

January 25 ♦ Monday
BBWN Volunteer Night: BiWomen newsletter stuffing, 7pm at the new Bi Office, 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, Boston. Plan ahead—mark your calendars now!

Wanting It All, from page 1

has at least two long-term simultaneous relationships going on. Everybody knows about everybody else and they are doing very well (and who wouldn't with a body like his).

The most difficult thing I've encountered is being involved in a relationship with someone who is monogamous. Yes, it does happen and successfully, too. As in any relationship, the key issues are trust and honesty. She happens to be a lesbian of color who is bi positive and currently HIV negative. We've had quite the time working through our stuff in general. The funnest topic has to be non-monogamy and monogamy (although the lesbian/bi thing and being from two different cultures is fun, too). I love her and want to be with her. She loves me and wants to be with me and only me. I go back and forth about how I would feel if she was non-monogamous as well. Would I be jealous? Probably. Would I be hurt? Don't know. I wouldn't want the details, for sure and I guess I would want to know what's going on for her, though. I think it's difficult for her to trust me and I can understand that. It's really hard for me sometimes to distinguish when she's upset over my non-monogamy or whether she is, in fact, being biphobic. If I was a lesbian and seeing another woman besides her, she'd still be upset and call me a whore. That's alright, though. There is nothing shameful or wrong with being a whore! LOVE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES!!!



Portrait of a Marriage

From the computer networks:

For those of you who saw and liked part 1 of "Portrait of a Marriage" on WGBH [July 19], a friend of a friend who works at GBH said that a religious group in Boston has been organizing people to call in to keep shows like this from being aired (for those of you who didn't watch.... it's the story of the three year passionate love affair of Vita Sackville-West with a woman during her platonic marriage to a man who is gay himself.)

Please call 492-2777 and ask for programming if you liked it or have feelings about these kind of programs being aired....

— hope

If you want to express your support... here is the address (the phone lines get jammed): Viewer Response, WGBH, 125 Western Ave., Allston 02134.

— Janet Littell

Cambridge City Council Passes Domestic Partner Ordinance

The domestic partners ordinance, passed by the Cambridge City Council on September 14, allows unmarried het/les/gay/bi couples to register their partnership status with the Cambridge city clerk, giving them limited "spousal-equivalent rights." Domestic partners would receive the right to visit their partners in city-operated hospitals and jails, as well as the right to review school records of their partner's children and the right to remove their partner's children from school in cases of illness or family emergency. Also, DPs of city employees will receive benefits such as health insurance and sick leave.

— from *Bay Windows*

School, from page 1

studies and gay studies; and bisexuality and feminism. The course drew heavily from a number of sources, especially *Bi Any Other Name*, ed. Lani Kaahumanu and Loraine Hutchins, *Bisexuality and HIV/AIDS*, ed. Ron Tielman et al, and Beth Weise's upcoming anthology *Closer to Home: Bisexuality and Feminism*.

Robyn Ochs is hoping to offer this course again next year, through MIT's Women's Studies Department, where it was previously offered in 1990. The Women's Studies Department, which is suffering from recent budgetary cutbacks, has indicated its willingness to offer the course provided that funds can be raised to pay the cost of offering the course. Robyn is hoping to raise \$4,000 through one or more private donations. Tax-deductible donations may be made to the MIT Women's Studies Department and earmarked for the course (hint, hint, hint). The addition of this course to the MIT curriculum would double the number of queer studies courses offered at MIT. Robyn asks that any interested donors contact her directly at (617) 495-8476. ▼

Subscribe to BiWomen!

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

☐ New subscription

☐ Renewal

Check one:

☐ No income:

Pay what you can

☐ Low income: \$12-15

☐ Steady Income: \$20

☐ Goddess-in-Training: \$50

☐ Goddess: \$75

☐ Matron Saint (WOW!): \$100

Send this form along with your check to:

BBWN

P.O. Box 639

Cambridge, MA 02140

Ongoing Events

(continued from previous page)

First and Third

Thursdays:

Bisexual Issues Rap Group at the New Haven Women's Center, 614 Orange St., (corner of Bishop) New Haven, Conn. Please call to specify wheelchair access or ASL interpreting requirements. Voice (203) 776-2658, TTY and voice (203) 397-2381.

Third Thursdays:

Incest Survivors Open Discussions, 7:30-9:30pm. Free. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Fridays:

Steppin' Out on Broadway, Country/Western and swing dances for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Friends. 8pm dance lessons. 9pm-midnight: Texas two-step, Swing, and Line dancing. Smoke/alcohol-free, juice bar, DJ. No partner necessary. Admission \$5. At "On Broadway," in Powderhouse Square, 880 Broadway, Somerville. Info: (617) 776-4325.

Saturdays

Boston Lesbian and Gay Country Dance Group. Traditional New England Contra and Dance Squares. 8-11pm, beginners lesson 7:30. First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner Centre and Eliot Sts., JP. On MBTA Green and Orange lines. \$5. Info: Janet, (617) 522-2216.



Robyn Ochs (top row, 3rd from right) and the 15 registered Tufts University students in the third-ever course on bisexuality.

CALENDAR

*For Ongoing
Events, see pages
10 and 11*

October 11

Sunday
National Coming Out Day!

November 8

Sunday

Rebecca Kaplan reads
from her essay in
*Closer to Home:
Bisexuality and
Feminism*. Potluck
(meat-free), discussion.
5pm at 1A Watson St.,
(corner Broadway),
Teele Sq., Somerville.
Info: (617) 776-7163.

November 30

Monday:

BBWN Volunteer
Night

Help stuff the
Dec./Jan. issue of
BiWomen! See old
friends, make new
ones. It really is fun,
especially when a lot of
women show up! You
can read BiWomen hot
off the press!

7-10pm. At the new
Bi office, 95 Berkeley
St., Suite 613.

October 1 ♦ Thursday

BBWN General Meeting. All women welcome! Please
come! 7pm at the Bi Office, 95 Berkeley St., Suite #613,
Boston. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

October 2 ♦ Friday

Songwriter and guitarist Cathy Winter at Christophers,
1920 Mass. Ave. in Porter Square, Cambridge (MBTA Red
line). 9pm. Celebrating the release of her new Flying Fish
album, *Next Sweet Time*. Info: (617) 396-3758.

October 4 ♦ Sunday

Bi Space, a friendly rap space to meet other bisexuals
and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at 95 Berkeley St.,
Suite 613, in Boston. This is about three blocks from the
Arlington St. T stop on the Green line. Parking is limited. A
\$2 donation is requested. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau potluck.
Help celebrate the Bureau's 20th Anniversary! Noon-4pm
at the Tichnor Lounge in Boylston Hall, located in Harvard
Yard next to the Widener Library. New and experienced
speakers welcome. Drinks and plates, forks, cups, etc.,
will be provided. Take the Red Line or the No. 1 bus to
Harvard Square. Info: (617) 354-0133.

October 9-11 ♦ Friday-Sunday

**International Display of the NAMES Project AIDS
Memorial Quilt** in Washington, DC, at President's Park,
near the Mall. Info: NAMES Project/Boston, (617) 262-
6263.

October 10 ♦ Saturday

BBWN Women's Potluck Brunch. 11am at Lori's in
Jamaica Plain. Directions, info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

October 11 ♦ Sunday

National Coming Out Day!



October 15 ♦ Thursday

**Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau monthly
meeting.** 7:30-9:30pm. Representatives from Tapestry will
discuss transgender issues. Info, location: (617) 354-0133.

October 16-17 ♦ Friday-Saturday

Anti-Racism Training for White Women. Friday 6:30-
9pm, Sat. 10am-4pm at the Women's Theological Center,
140 Clarendon St. (YWCA), 6th floor, Boston. \$60-75,
includes Saturday's lunch. Info: (617) 536-8782.

October 17 ♦ Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. 11am at Sibel's, 100 Peterborough
St. in the Fenway Area. Nearest MBTA stop: Fenway on
Green line. Info (call to confirm location): (617) BIS-MOVE.

October 18 ♦ Sunday

Biversity outing to King Richard's Faire. Do the
Renaissance thing with bis and friends. Meet at 10am at
the Au Bon Pain in South Station (under the train schedule

board) to carpool. MBTA stop: South Station on Red line.
Entrance fee: \$12. Bring food or buy at Faire (not included
in entrance fee).

October 21 ♦ Wednesday

**Boston Organizing meeting of the 1993 (April 25)
March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal
Rights and Liberation.** 7pm, Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre
St., Jamaica Plain. Info: 566-4296.

October 23-24 ♦ Friday-Saturday

2nd International Bisexual Conference, London,
England. Sliding scale registration fee from 0 to \$15. Info:
F. Klein, M.D., 4545 Park Boulevard, Suite 207, San
Diego, CA 92116.

October 24-25 ♦ Saturday-Sunday

**Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau Annual
Training** at the Ell Center, Northeastern University,
Boston. New and inexperienced speakers welcome. Info:
(617) 354-0133.

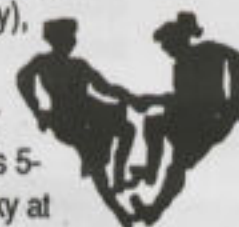
October 31 ♦ Saturday

Biversity Halloween Celebration. Erotic reading and
costume party! 7:30-8:15pm: Social Time. Admire each
other's fab costumes. 8:15-10pm: Erotic Reading. Bring
your hottest story to read—or someone else's. BiFest's
Ann G. and Laura P. return as facilitator queens.
Mistresses of the night say: "Doors are sealed (to
incoming) at 8:15 so as not to break readers' (and
listeners') concentration." 10-10:30pm: More mingling and
mutual admiration. Refreshments served. 95 Berkeley St.,
1st floor. \$3 suggested donation. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.



November 8 ♦ Sunday

Rebecca Kaplan reads from her essay in *Closer to
Home: Bisexuality and Feminism*. Potluck (meat-free),
discussion. 5pm at 1A Watson St., (corner Broadway),
Teele Sq., Somerville. Info: (617) 776-7163.



**Two-step, swing and ballroom dance classes for
bisexuals, lesbians, gays and their friends** begins 5-
week holiday session in Brookline. Info: Sara Brodsky at
"Put Your Best Foot Forward": (617) 522-1444.

Money and Class: How Shall We Deal? 7-9pm at the
Women's Theological Center, 140 Clarendon St. (YWCA),
6th floor, Boston. "Issues of money and class are ongoing
ethical concerns for us at the WTC—whether we're setting
fees, writing grants, asking for donations, creating
programs that are accessible to women across differences
of class and income, planning budgets, or making
personnel policies. We would like your
input into a discussion of these things.
Please come." No charge, no registration
(but a call to say you're coming would be
appreciated). Info: (617) 536-8782.



CALENDAR continues on page 10



Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Election '92:

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The following articles about Colorado are from various computer "bulletin boards." Thanks to the efforts of many individuals (and thanks to the miracle of modern technology) we are able to pass this news on to our readers.

Amendment 2 and the Colorado Boycott

As many of you probably know, on Tuesday, November 3, Colorado voted in an amendment to their state constitution which revokes any existing gay/lesbian/bisexual civil

rights legislation and prohibits the drafting of any new legislation. This is a repressive, regressive win for a right wing fascist-like organization inappropriately self-named Colorado Family Values (CFV). CFV supporters generally believe that "Gays don't need special rights," which really isn't the case at all. Amendment 2 denies gays the same recourse that anyone else has. It singles gays out to have fewer rights than other groups. And CFV has no intention of stopping their hate campaign here; they intend to push for legislation with a stronger discriminatory flavor in Colorado and surrounding states.

The law is slated to go into effect Nov. 20 and already ugly things are happening in Colorado. Three teachers in the state have had their jobs threatened because they are gay (or suspected of being gay). The Colorado AIDS project expects a major impact on its HIV-positive gay clients who will be thrown out of their homes. It's against the law to evict someone with disabilities, but it will be legal on Nov. 20 to evict someone who is gay. There have already been apartment complex managers who said come Nov. 20, the gays are in the street. With all of this there is, of course, the danger of our side responding with vandalism or violence. So far the community has kept calm, but some believe there is a need for leadership. A group called Boulder Organization for Non-Discrimination (BOND) has formed that plans to make special efforts to take the high road (avoiding negative words like hate and phobia when possible) and to integrate in the straight and less-aggressive gay supporters.

Colorado continues on page 6

Creating Change at Creating Change

A BI'S EYE PERSPECTIVE ON NGLTF'S
1992 CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE

by Robyn Ochs

More than 1400 lesbian and gay ... and bisexual ... and transgender activists gathered together November 13-15 in the (gag me) lovely Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel. Fellow hotel guests included, among others, a professional football team and a beauty pageant. All in all, it was the perfect backdrop for an Armistead Maupin novel, lacking only, perhaps, believability.

This year's conference included a powerful collection of national and local bi activists. From

Creating Change continues on page 4

**Printed on
recycled paper**

BBWN News

Honor Roll



Ilta A.
Sharon G.
Laura P.
Laura S.
Ann G.
Gail Z.
Kathleen H.
Eve D.
Robyn O.
Lori P.
Hilary L.
Rebecca G.
Jayne S.
Janet M.
Susan R.
Rebecca K.
Annie S.
Stephanie B.
Mary R.
Marjorie B.
Sue W.
Cathleen F.
Peggy F.
Meg H.
Liz H.
Susan S.
Marcia D.
Claire M.

BiWomen is published bi-monthly.

Your Humble Editor:
Kathleen Hepburn

Your Genius Co-Editor:
Susan Schiefelbein

Your Faithful Contributors:
Lori Patterson
Ann Golia
Robyn Ochs
Kathleen Hepburn
Laura Sachs

BBWN General Planning Meeting

Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 1, 1992



The first part of the meeting was spent discussing the job(s) of the volunteer coordinator (which Stephanie had been doing), and figuring out how we might break down this position into smaller, more manageable coordinator positions so that no one feels overwhelmed. We came up with the idea of going through the volunteer check list from the BBWN membership renewal form, and with small modifications, using that as a guide for what needed to be covered. The second part of the meeting was spent clarifying what each task or coordinating position involved, and delegating it to someone (see below).

Newsletter-Kathleen H. will continue to edit and coordinate production

Volunteer Night Coordinator-Lori P.

Pick up mail from P.O. Box-Laura S. will continue to do

Answering BBWN Mail-Kathleen H., Stephanie B., Jane S. & Laura S.

Answering phone messages-Stephanie B. will continue to do

Getting BBWN event listings into local papers-Rebecca K.

Treasurer-Robyn O. will continue to do, w/ help from Gail

Coordinate facilitation of General Meetings (every other month)- Rebecca K.

Coordinate facilitation of BBWN Intro Meetings every other month- Ann G. will continue to do

Advertising coordinator (obtains advertisers for the newsletter)-vacant

Merchandising coordinator-replies to orders

for t-shirts, buttons, etc.-vacant (Lori will do temporarily)

Special events coordination-recruit as needed

At volunteer nights, and at meetings, women will be asked to fill vacancies, or to share tasks with others.

It was decided to go back to having a non-stuff volunteer night, but to change it to two weeks before the newsletter stuff. Kathy asked for this as being most helpful for newsletter production.

Lucy F. spoke about the newspaper Gay Community News (GCN). Gave us info and encouraged people to get involved in helping the newspaper get back in print, and to show bi support. To volunteer, call 426-4469.

Newsletter policy was discussed. It was agreed that BiWoman is a place for articles by and for women. If Kathleen receives a letter or article by a man she feels would be valuable for the newsletter, she will bring that article to a volunteer night to get feedback from other women about whether it should be published as an exception to the general rule. Personal ads are ok, but they are for women only, and there will be a fee.

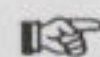
Newly scheduled events:

*Volunteer night on Nov. 16, 7 pm to 9 pm, 95 Berkeley St.

*General planning meeting Dec. 16, 7pm to 9 pm - LOCATION??

*General planning meeting Feb. 11, 7 pm to 9 pm - LOCATION??

- submitted by Ann Golia



DEADLINE for the Feb./March issue:

Friday, January 8, 1992

All submissions in writing, please, and include a name and phone number if possible. **If you do not want your name published, please tell us!** Otherwise we may assume that you do not mind being listed as a contributor. **You may contribute anonymously, or just use your first name if you wish.** Send articles, calendar entries, letters, art, news and views to:

BiWomen, BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

Letters

BBWN:

Here is my renewal fee.

When I begin attending Stanford this week as a graduate student in Communication, I will seek out the orientation for the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual organization, as listed in the opening greeting brochure of the University. This will be my first such alliance, since the First International Bisexual Conference in San Francisco, and subscription to your newsletter, which resulted from my writing a freelance article about the fire at the Castro District's Elephant Walk for the GAYBOOK publication, and reading lists of organizations in that magazine.

Following the reports in BBWN, I warm toward alliance among non-hets.

Thanks for letting me participate in the rhetoric. I want to continue subscribing to BBWN because it is for bisexual women, and because it is international. Also, the seemingly endless arguments — such as who did what about whether to include "bisexual" in the banner of a march — take on an importance somehow in the continuation of discussion and action.

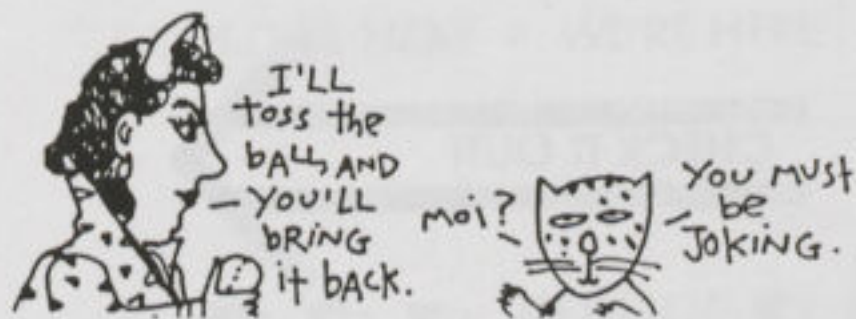
Regards,
Sandra Katzman



Dear BBWN,

Please continue my membership despite my limited contribution. Your newsletter keeps my identity alive in this small, unprogressive town, in these difficult economic times. I am unemployed now but when I do find a job you will be first on my list of repayment.

Blessings,
Linda



Dear Friends,

Due to the increasing costs of overseas postage and the rising numbers of magazines that we are exchanging with, we have decided to send out BiFrost as printed matter and send it bi-monthly. So don't despair if you don't hear from us until November — we haven't forgotten you! We now also have two overseas subscription rates (see below). We'd be grateful if you could announce this in your next issue.

Bi for now,
Alison

BiFrost, *The Rainbow Bridge*, a national (U.K.) monthly newsletter for Bisexuals, P.O. Box 117, Norwich NR1 2SU, England. Within U.K. £6.50/yr. In the U.S., £15 if you want it as a private letter or £10 if you don't mind getting it as printed matter (which is less private).



Hello Robyn, Laura, Sharon, and BBWN—

The last letter as usual was a breath of fresh air for me. I've enclosed \$10 for a renewal — all I can afford now as I'm a graduate student at San Diego State University. The California budget cuts are hitting us terribly here.

The Queer group on campus is pretty active, and while its called The Gay and Lesbian Student Union, the name will change very soon! I'm hoping to start a Bi rap group soon with a bi-identified sweet man. I also want to work to make the group less white and less male. They're cool and will surely support such change; they themselves simply haven't made the effort or aren't sure how.

Some of us are going to NGLTF's Creating Change conference in L.A. in a few weeks — exciting! And, the queer faculty gave us \$360 to help us get there!! I don't think I could have otherwise.

We're also planning as large a contingent as possible to go to DC in '93!

If any of you come by San Diego, give me a call: (619) 298-2468.

Love,
Sara "Slick"

P.S.—

I'm still engaged in a struggle to get my college's alumnae/i group to include the "b" word — as well as including trans-gendered/trans-sexual folks

I hope we'll have success soon. There's a generational resistance. (Vassar College)

Letters continue on next page



Our address:

BiWomen

BBWN

P.O. Box 639

Cambridge, MA

02140



BiWomen is now accepting personal ads!

All women welcome to place ads. Up to 50 words, only \$10 per issue, \$25 for three issues!

Sources and Resources

Some resources used in the production of this issue of BiWomen:

Boston NOW News, newspaper of the Boston Chapter of the National Organization for Women. \$35/yr. (4 issues) (\$20-34 sliding scale).

BiFrost, The Rainbow Bridge, a national (U.K.) monthly newsletter for Bisexuals, P.O. Box 117, Norwich NR1 2SU, England. Within U.K. £6.50/yr. In the U.S., £15 if you want it as a private letter or £10 if you don't mind getting it as printed matter (which is less private).

Options, Rhode Island's Lesbian and Gay Newspaper. Monthly. Free, donations welcome. Options, P.O. Box 27444, Providence, RI 02907.

Radia, New Haven's (Conn.) Feminist Calendar and Newsletter, 614 Orange St., New Haven, CT 06511 (203) 776-2658. \$20/yr. (12 issues).

The Bi Monthly, the Champaign-Urbana Bisexual Network Newsletter, c/o McKinley Foundation, 809 S. Fifth St., Champaign, IL 61820. \$10/yr. (10 issues).

North Bi Northwest, the Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Newsletter, a member project of the Gay Community Social Services, North Bi Northwest, P.O. Box 30645, Greenwood Station, Seattle, WA 98103-0645. \$10/yr. (6 issues).

Bisexual Centrist, the newsletter of the BiCentrist Alliance. BCA, P.O. Box 2254, Washington, D.C. 20013-2254. \$7/yr. (4 issues).



Creating Change, from page 1

San Francisco: Lani Kaahumanu (co-editor of *Bi Any Other Name* and an active member of BiPol and other groups); Gerard Palmeri (BiNet representative to the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay & Bi Rights & Liberation); and Naomi Tucker (Bay Area activist and co-editor of an upcoming book on bi politics). From Long Beach, CA: Gary North (bi activist and journalist). From St. Paul, MN: Victor Raymond. From Chicago, IL: Melissa Merry. From Washington, DC: Elias Farajate-Jones (local activist and editor of an upcoming anthology on bi men of color). From the Boston area: Laura Perez, Wayne Bryant and myself. And this is only a partial list.

Thanks to behind the scenes activism over the past several months (thanks especially to Lani, Elias and to Loraine Hutchins), the conference included more workshops on bisexuality than in previous years, including among them LesBiGay Studies, Lesbian/Bi Women's Dialogue, Gay/Bi Men's Dialogue, Bi Activists in the L/G Community, and a Bi Caucus. In addition, the pre-conference institute for People of Color made its focus bisexuality, coalition building and diversity; and bi activists of color Lani, Victor, Elias and Laura were panelists at the institute.

While the conference was not always sunshine and light as far as bisexual recognition was concerned, we discovered a large number of active lesbian and gay allies. Fifty women, the majority lesbian, attended the lesbian/bi women's dialogue, which was skillfully facilitated by Michelle Crone, with bi panelists Robyn Ochs and Laura Perez, and lesbian panelists Pat Hussein of Atlanta and Marj Plumb of San Francisco. It was heartwarming to see an atmosphere safe enough for us to honestly express our fears and our hopes of one another, and where we were really listening to each other.


Also interesting was the workshop on Queer Sex: Blurring the Boundaries, which dealt with a phenomenon which has recently begun to be discussed in the community: gay men and lesbians having sex with one another. I did not attend this panel, but apparently there was discussion of the difference between queer sex, heterosexual, and bisexuality, with the argument being made that queer sex is different from bisexuality or heterosexual. Some bi people who attended this panel felt that there was a great deal of biphobia present. Whether this is true, I find it a healthy sign when any of us are more able to speak honestly and publicly about our reality and experience.

One related story: on Saturday night there was an (expensive!) fundraiser for NGLTF. Robin Tyler, who was emceeding the event, acknowledged the presence of singer/

songwriter/cultural worker Holly Near, who was sitting in the audience. Holly stood to enthusiastic applause. After the applause had subsided, Robin Tyler continued "I love you Holly, but thanks to you I have to say that I'm a lesbian who sleeps with women." (For those unfamiliar with Holly Near, she identifies publicly as a lesbian who sleeps with men.) There was a great deal of laughter, and I was among those laughing.

Obviously, I can't speak for ALL bi activists, not even for all bi activists who attended the 1992 Creating Change conference, but my sense was that we went home feeling that our presence was felt by all conference attendees, and appreciated by many. We still have a long road to travel before our contributions to the lesbian/gay/bi/transgender movement are fully recognized, but things are changing, for the better, at a much faster pace than I ever dreamed possible.

And, bi the way, see you at the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay & Bi Equal Rights and Liberation on Sunday, April 25. There will most certainly be a bisexual contingent at the March, as well as a national BiNet meeting on Friday the 23rd, and a day-long bi conference on April 24.

Robyn Ochs is a Cambridge, MA based activist. Her works have appeared in a number of anthologies and she speaks around the U.S. on bisexuality and coalition building. She taught the second and third courses (ever) on bisexuality. 

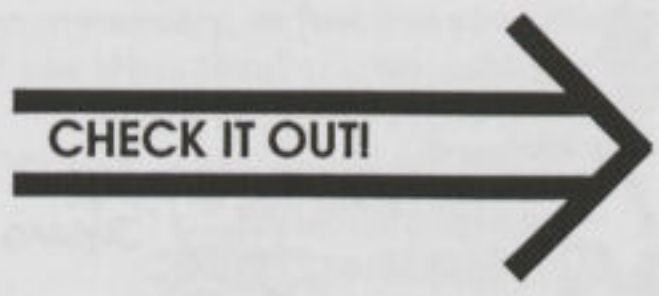


Letters, from preceding page

Dear BiWomen and BBWN,

I just wanted to share with you the little slogan sheet I recently made up. I passed them out at one of the Bi workshops at the Michigan Womyn's Festival and they were quite a hit. Now, no one should be at a loss for a good comeback line to the ever-present: "What, you're BI?!!!" (sneer and look of disgust). Please pass it along.

Susan Kane
Ann Arbor, MI

CHECK IT OUT! 

THE ULTIMATE BISEXUAL T-SHIRT/POSTER/COMEBACK

by Susan Kane

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE, DOUBLE YOUR FUN • IT'S NOT MY FAULT THAT YOU CAN ONLY THINK IN ONE DIRECTION • WHO SAYS I CAN'T? • I LOVE MEN AS MUCH AS I HATE PATRIARCHY • 100% BISEXUAL, 100% QUEER • HOW LONG CAN I STAY IN THIS PHASE? • EVERYBODY THINKS I'M A LESBIAN • KINSEY 2.1 AND OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS • YOU CAN HAVE IT BOTH WAYS • FOLLOW YOUR NATURE • I AM OUT, THANK YOU • POLITICAL LESBIANISM — NOT MY IDEA OF A GOOD TIME ON SATURDAY MIGHT • COMPLEXITY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE • AC / DC • YES, I LIKE GIRLS • HE'S THE FEMME • WELL, I DON'T THINK YOU EXIST EITHER • MCKINNON DOES IT • BEWARE: NON MONOGAMOUS BISEXUAL APPROACHING! • I THRIVE ON CONFUSION • NO FATS, FEMMES, BUTCHES OR BI'S — I WANT HER THIN AND BORING • I'M BISEXUAL AND I'M NOT ATTRACTED TO YOU • KY-KY • IF IT FEELS GOOD, YOU MUST HAVE FALSE CONSCIOUSNESS • BISEXUAL BY LUCK, QUEER BY CHOICE • IF I WANTED A MAN, I'D HAVE ONE ~ IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU CAN'T PICK A GIRLFRIEND • DWORKIN'S WRONG — TRUST ME • CROSS BOUNDARIES • KINSEY HAD A LIMITED IMAGINATION • SWITCH-HITTER • I LIKE BOYS, TOO • WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE YOU'RE STRAIGHT? • I RESPECT DYKE-ONLY SPACE • REAL FEMINISTS CLAIM THEIR OWN DESIRE • I'M NOT CONFUSED — YOU ARE • GET WITH THE 90'S • IF YOU THINK MY ROOM IS A MESS, WAIT TILL YOU SEE MY SEX LIFE • I WAS A LESBIAN ONCE TOO • DID I ASK YOUR OPINION? • I PREFER ANARCHISTS, ACTUALLY • NO, YOU CAN'T WATCH • COMMITMENT IS MY MIDDLE NAME • I'M NOT A LESBIAN, BUT MY BOYFRIEND'S A NONOPERATIVE TRANSSEXUAL • DON'T TELL ME HOW TO FUCK • PC SEX IS AN OXYMORON • IT'S MY REVOLUTION, AND I INTEND TO ENJOY MYSELF • EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LOVER • I DATE MEN OR WOMEN, NOT BOTH AT THE SAME TIME • WE DON'T LIKE YOU EITHER • HASBIAN, SHMASBIAN • AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE PROMISCUITY? • HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO • I JUST DO THIS TO SEDUCE GAY MEN • SCHLAFFLEY'S A WOMAN AND IT DOESN'T SEEM TO HELP • I MADE UP MY MIND A LONG TIME AGO • GET CURIOUS • KINSEY 3.5 AND COUNTING • I LIKE PEOPLE • ASK ME IF I CARE • IF YOU POKE ME, I DON'T MAKE SPORES • YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL • A WOMAN WHO CAN LEAVE YOU FOR A MAN COULD ALSO LEAVE YOU FOR A WOMAN • MMMM... THIS FENCE FEELS GOOD • DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT • MY GIRLFRIEND WANTS TO KNOW WHO HAS MORE STRAIGHT PRIVILEGE • BE CAREFUL, YOU COULD BE NEXT • WE'RE HERE

▽ ▽ ▽ BI PRIDE ▽ BI PRIDE ▽ BI PRIDE ▽ BI PRIDE ▽ ▽ ▽

Please Read This:

During the weekend of the March on Washington, there will be a BiNet National Meeting (Friday April 23) and a one-day bi conference (Saturday April 24). There will also be a dance on Saturday evening. If you possibly can, **decide now** whether or not you plan to attend the conference. Then:

❶ fill in the registration materials inserted in this newsletter (if you didn't receive registration material, call the East Coast Bisexual Network at (617) BIS-MOVE.)

❷ send in the registration fee.

❸ (there's more???) YES!!) consider sending a donation to the March on Washington. Why? Well, organizing a march of this magnitude takes money. Costs are expected to top \$750,000. The portable toilets alone will cost \$80,000!

If you are able to send a donation to the March organizers—no matter how small—make your check out to ECBN and earmark it for the March on Washington. This way, ECBN can make a single, larger donation from the bi community. This would make a strong statement to the March organizers that the bi community is a strong part of the greater queer movement. (Donations can also be sent directly to: National Steering Committee, Box 34607, Washington, DC 20043-4607, or call 1-800-832-2889.)

DO IT NOW!
Please don't delay! ▼

Anti-Gay Amendment Leads to Suicide

[The following was excerpted from a front page article in Colorado Springs' Gazette Telegraph, Wednesday, November 11, 1992, entitled "Amendment's OK 'Last Straw' for Troubled Gay Man: Suicide Note Places Blame" written by Angela Dire]

A person gets from a symbol the meaning he puts into it. Dying from AIDS, distraught over the death of a close friend, Marty Wayne Booker put a lot of meaning into Amendment 2. For him, it was more than a constitutional ban on laws protecting gays from discrimination. A powerful symbol, perhaps. An excuse, maybe. Whatever it was or whatever it meant to the deeply troubled 26-year-old Colorado Springs man, it obsessed him in the final minutes before he took his life.

"I refuse to live in a state where a few people can, at will, make my life a living hell," he wrote in his suicide note the day after the election. "Thanks to CFV, hell was delivered to my very front door!"

It was a reference to Colorado for Family Values, the Colorado Springs group that drafted Amendment 2. Leaders of the organization did not return phone calls Tuesday.

"I suppose I'm weak," Booker scrawled as a postscript, "but it took a lot of courage before I would have to live through the Auschwitz CFV has in mind for people like me! I love you all. I'm sorry my crime in life was LOVE — albeit to the same gender."

And with the security chain fastened on his apartment door, and with a box of Kleenex nearby, Booker loaded his stomach with a drug his doctors had prescribed to calm anxiety. That soon mixed with the alcohol he'd already drunk. A police officer and Booker's best friend, Matthew Miller, found him the next day, lying next to a trash can full of tear-strained tissues.

To some, Booker's suicide is an extreme example of the psychological toll Amendment 2 has taken on gays and lesbians in Colorado. "This kind of a law touches gay men and lesbians in the part of their lives they struggle with the most — the acceptance of their environment and the people around them," said Alan Cook, a Colorado Springs psychotherapist who counsels gays. The day after the election, many of his clients called him in anguish over the law. But since then, he says, their despair has turned to determination, and they've begun to take positive steps. "A number of my clients that have been closeted

have since come out and expressed to family and friends that they're gay and they're concerned about this law," he said.

Please call the Gazette Telegraph, (719)-636-0210, and give them your support for their having published this. They get a lot of hate calls against this type of reporting, and are really pleased to get your calls. You can also phone or fax in a letter to the editor. If you want to send a letter, direct it to: Gazette Telegraph, Box 1779, Colorado Springs, CO 80901. ▼



Colorado, from page 1

Luckily there is a bright side, a glimmer of hope — recently, the Boulder City Council approved without hesitation the mayor's lawsuit against the state. Meanwhile, there is the possibility that an injunction may be declared on Amendment 2 before it goes into effect in order to debate the legalities more thoroughly. An injunction could put the law on hold for up to a year which would buy valuable time.

Boycott Called

PLEASE — to show that this kind of systematic, legalized, hate-filled discrimination will not be tolerated — boycott Colorado companies and products (see the list below) and Colorado tourism (yes, this means skiing). Additionally, and most importantly, call the Colorado Tourism Board at (303) 592-5510 or write to them at 1625 Broadway Suite 1700, Denver, CO 80202 and express your disdain! Maybe you would also like to contact the other Colorado government agencies — just refer to the handy list below! We've also listed some of the groups in Colorado fighting Amendment #2 — they could use your donations and encouragement.

The following information was compiled from information posted to an electronic mail network.

Companies:

- Bethesda Foundation, donated \$50,000 to CFV. 1-(719)-594-0009, 1465 Kelly Johnson Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO
- Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, 1-(800)-892-1112 1445 Market St., Denver CO 80202-1727
- Colorado Tourism Board, 1-(303)-592-5510.
- Colorado Ski Country USA, 1-(303)-837-0793.
- Coors Brewing Co, 1-(800)-642-6116. Their products include Coors beer, Keystone, Killians Red, and Cutter.

Colorado continues on next page

KALEIDOSCOPE RECORDING ARTIST

Betsy Rose

In a benefit concert for
Old Cambridge Baptist Church's
150th Anniversary Campaign

Sunday • Jan. 10 • 4 p.m.
Old Cambridge Baptist Church
1151 Mass. Ave. • Harvard Sq.



"The sheer depth and richness in the poetry of Betsy's songs establishes her amongst the cream of current singer/songwriters."

– Folk Roots-London

"Betsy Rose's beautiful voice, inspiring lyrics and seemingly limitless energy make her performances a magical event."

– Plexus

"To cry, sing, laugh and work . . . is what Betsy's music is all about."

– Creation Magazine

\$13 in advance • \$15 at the door
tickets from the church office • 864-9275

Colorado, from preceding page

- Current, Inc., 1-(800)-525-7170, P.O. Box 2559, Colorado Springs, CO 80901
- Diners Club International, 1-(800)-525-9135, 83 Inverness Dr. West, Englewood, CO 80112
- Focus on the Family, 1-(800)-A-FAMILY, 420 N Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 (Ye Olde Family Values Fascists)
- KOAA-TV Channels 5/30, ran an editorial supporting #2. Attn.: John O. Gilbert, 1-(719)-632-5030, 530 Communication Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.
- Gazette Telegraph, ran an editorial supporting #2, (719)-636-0210, 30 South Prospect, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Manville Corp., 1-(800)-654-3101, PO Box 5108, Denver, CO 80217-5108
- Perkins Chrysler Plymouth Alfa Romeo, president of CFV, group behind #2, 1-(719)-475-2330, 1205 Motor City Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80906
- Teledyne Water Pik, 1-(800)-525-2774, 1730 East Prospect St., Ft. Collins, CO 80553-0001
- Travel, 1-800-Colorado
- The Colorado Cyclist, 1-(800)-688-8600, 3970 E. Bijou St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909-8846 fax: 1-(719)-591-4041

- Vicorp Restaurants, 1-(303)-296-2121, 400 W. 48th Ave, Denver, CO 80216
- Walter Drake and Sons, 1-(719)-596-3140, Drake Bldg., Colorado Springs, CO 80940-0001

Government:

- Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau 1-(719)-635-7506, 104 S Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Gov. Roy Romer, 1-(303)-866-2471, 136 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203
- State Travel Bureau, 1-(800)-433-2656
- Mayor Wellington Webb (opposed #2), City & County Bldg., Denver, CO 80202

Allies:

- EPOC, 1-(303)-839-5540, P.O. Box 300476, Denver, Colorado 80203
- Lambda Legal Defense Fund / Colorado Initiative, CLIP, P.O. Box 44447, Denver, Colorado 80201
- GLCCC, 1-(303)-831-6268 or 1-303-837-1598, P.O. Drawer E, Denver, CO 80218



Candlelight Vigil

A Colorado student group called A Place Under the Sun is organizing a nationwide candlelight vigil for **Inauguration Day, January 20**. The purpose of the vigil is to call national attention to the gay rights issue, particularly to the passage of Amendment 2 in Colorado, and to ask Clinton for his support. The vigil will happen simultaneously around the country, beginning at 9 pm EST. People are needed to organize vigils in their cities and states. For more information about the vigil, call Todd at (303)-938-8987.

Read! Write! Draw!

Dear Beautiful Bi's!

The Oregon gay and lesbian journal I now volunteer for, The Lavendar Network, will put out an issue on Bisexuals in January 1993. We ask for submissions by, for, and about any blaffectional soul, in any form - art, poems, essays, 1st person, you name it! Diversity sought - in race, class and gender identity. In coming out from the straight, gay or lesbian, or as bi from the start, etc. . . Send to: Ellen Klowden, 3610 Emerald, Eugene, OR 97405

♥ Ellen

Bifeminist women and lesbians needed to be confidentially interviewed for studies on gender identity and human sexuality. Contact Lana Pattatucci, Ph.D., D.E., 13107 Elsdale Ct. #101, Rockville, MD 20851.

MATERIAL NEEDED for an anthology on "Body Image and Identity in the Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Community(ies)." The book will explore the ways in which our communities both challenge and perpetuate society's beauty standard. Suggested word length for articles and non-fiction narratives is 700-2500 words. Some poetry considered. Tentative publication date is Fall '93. Submissions and/or queries should be sent to: Dawn Atkins, P.O. Box 934, Santa Cruz, CA

Submissions Sought: Bisexual Anthology-fiction, non-fiction, poetry, cartoons or any creation related to bisexuality. Contact: Sheela Lambert, 720 W. 173rd St., New York, NY. (212) 928-3558.

Bisexual Connection is conducting a survey of Bisexuals in open, committed relationships with the intentions of developing a study of these relationships and eventually to publish a book on the subject, focusing on people's own descriptions of their relationships. "For us," they write, "part of the experience of being bisexual is being involved in an open, committed relationship. We feel that our choice of this sort of relationship is strongly influenced and shaped by our sexuality. We would like to find out how other bisexuals involved in open, committed relationships feel about their choice, and about its connection with their sexuality." Surveys are available by writing:

BiSurvey c/o Bisexual Connection
P.O. Box 13158
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Call for submissions for an anthology of writing and artwork by Asian Pacific Islander Lesbians and Bisexual women to be published by Sister Vision: Black Women and Women of Colour Press.

About sexuality, activism, racism, homophobia, relationships, immigration, identity, erotica, disability, biculturalism, family issues, art - in short, our lives. Send fiction, poetry, essays, interviews, short plays, autobiography, journal entries, photographs, prints, drawings, photos of sculpture or paintings, etc.


The deadline is March 30, 1993. The anthology will be published by Sister Vision/Black Women and Women of Colour Press.

Send submissions with an SASE. Please write if you have special needs or questions.

Sister Vision Press

P.O. Box 217, Station E

Toronto, Ontario M6H 4E2

A bi-monthly newsletter for survivors of female incest began publication in September 1992. SOFIE, Survivors of Female Incest Emerge, is for men and women who were sexually abused as children by their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, or other significant women in their lives. "I believe we are an unheard of segment of society," writes the Editor/Publisher, Karen K., "Women do sexually abuse children. We need to be heard. In my own recovery I have felt very alone because I haven't been able to find others like me." SOFIE welcomes all correspondence, and as many letters, articles, stories and artwork will be printed as possible. A one-year subscription (6 bi-monthly issues) is \$30.00 (US). All other countries, \$36.00 in US funds. You need not subscribe to correspond. Please indicate whether or not you want your name published or if you would like a personal response. Write to: SOFIE, P.O. Box 2794, Renton, WA 98056-2794. 

Advertise in BiWomen!

For only \$10 per issue, your message will reach over 700 subscribers. Save \$5 and advertise in three issues for \$25.

Send your business-card sized ad or personal ad, with a check to:

BiWomen, c/o BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

Such a deal!

An Essentially Narrow View

by Lori Patterson

The following is a review of an article recently published in Essence magazine. The article, "Bisexuality: Out of the Closet" by Allison Abner, appeared in the October 1992 issue.

First off, all the names of the people in the article have been changed. We're not told why, so the reader is left to assume. The language is pretty stiff, too. "There is only one word to describe the vast gray area: *bisexual*." I feel like a soundtrack should pipe up with that scary DUM-DUM-DA-DAAA of Hitchcock's style. And "vast gray" — God, we sound so desperate.

After a short vague definition of "what is bisexuality" (with a mention of Lani Kaahumanu and *Bi Any Other Name*) the article goes on to describe how women become bisexual due to the infamous "man-shortage." They say, "Considering the much-cited statistics on the lack of eligible Black men for sisters over 40...there are women...that form intimate relations with each other in lieu of men." Can't find a man — go get a woman, not because you happen to find women attractive, but because your options are slim. What kinda stuff is that? There are few "testimonials" given by the women who've had this experience. Then we move on to "taking the leap." This section describes women who have, omigod, actually had sex with other women — bring on the scary music. But again it's only a crutch. "Many people use relationships to work through difficult childhood experiences." More testimonials brought in and the word "use." I kind of like the word "rely." It makes it sound like we got nothin' better to do than "use" each other. Finally we get to the woman who knows what she wants. Dejenya (they made these names up now, remember) "she says her bisexuality has nothing to do with childhood trauma or disappointments in men. She believes she was born bisexual and her earliest childhood memories include attractions to both genders." Now that's what I wanted to hear. Granted, hanging out with the girls because some guy was a prick is good bonding, and if you've been molested by a man, being with women is therapeutic — but the way this article is saying it, is that there are only a few specific reasons women are bisexual. This ignores the wide spectrum of experiences of women of all races, shapes and nationalities.

It was a narrow piece, but I should be grateful for the good thing about it — awareness. ▼

ZAP Outrage!

by Jo Eadie

Those fantastic folks at Outrage! (London) still haven't quite got the point. After much campaigning by BIONIC (Bisexuals Organising Noise, Insurrection, and Confrontation) they decided to open the group to include bisexuals — but their latest charter runs as follows (this is taken directly from the latest publicity with underlining by me):

Outrage! is a broad based group open to all lesbians, gay men and bisexuals committed to radical non-violent direct action and civil disobedience to:

Assert the dignity, pride and human rights of lesbians and gay men.

Fight homophobia, discrimination and violence against lesbians and gay men.

Affirm the rights of lesbians and gay men to sexual freedom, choice and self-determination.

SO: Outrage! wants us on board as campaigners, but isn't prepared to engage in any campaigns in support of us. It is not asserting our rights or dignity, it is not fighting violence against us, it is not affirming our rights. They have clearly rejected the opportunity to include "bisexual" in their constitution, while including us in who it's open to. Until Outrage! decides that it is there to fight for us, it's decision to include us is just an attempt to boost it's membership. Now that's what I call an Outrage!

Letters politely (or not so) telling them where their policy falls short of equality, justice and respect seem in order. Write to: Outrage! LLGC, 69 Cowcross St., London EC1M 6BP, England.

This article is reprinted from BiFrost, issue 15, September 1992. ▼



617-646-1473
40 Fayette Street
Arlington, MA 02174

Emily Page, M.A.
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▼
BiWomen needs
you!

Express yourself:

SKETCHES

POETRY

WRITINGS

THOUGHTS

Send them to

BiWomen
BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA
02140



Support Group for Married Women

An informal, discreet support group for lesbian and bisexual women married to men. We could talk about anything from rearing children to what it's like being married and gay. You may also bring your children. For more information, write to BBWN at P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140.

Ongoing Events

(continued from
page 12)

Tuesdays:

Bisexual Women's Rap Group. 7:30pm-10pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

Wednesdays:

Say It, Sister! radio show on WMBR 88.1 FM (first on your FM dial!). 7:30-8:30pm. 12/2: Women's International News. 12/9: to be announced. 12/16: More Women and Comedy. 12/23: Midwives - A Labor of Love. 12/30: Nuns Leaving the Convent. Info: (617) 253-8810.

First Wednesday: Incest Survivors' Thinktank. A discussion group for women on feminist and cultural theories and political strategies. Begins promptly at 7:15pm, ends 9:15pm. Info: Thinktank contact person at the Women's Center, 354-8807.

(But wait! There's even more on page 11!)

November and December in History

November 19, 1903

The women's national trade union league is established. Mary Morton Kekew is president. The league changes its name in 1907 to the National Women's Trade Union League.

December 16, 1904

The Majestic Theater in New York city is the first in the nation to employ female ushers.

November 8, 1910

The state of Washington passes a constitutional amendment to permit woman suffrage.

November 6, 1917

New York state passes a woman suffrage resolution, giving Empire state women the right to vote.

December 1, 1919

Lady Nancy Witcher Langhorne Aston becomes the first U.S. woman elected member of parliament to the House of Commons, representing Plymouth, England.

November 19, 1920

A justice of the peace in Chicago, Illinois, rules that women must remove their hats in the courtroom. Two women who refuse are fined \$5 each.

November 2, 1921

The American Birth Control League is founded by Margaret Sanger.

November 23, 1921

The Sheppard-Towner Act becomes law. It provides for the "welfare and hygiene of maternity and infancy" and will allow up to \$1 million a year in federal aid to mothers and children.

November 7, 1922

Grace F. Kaercher of Ortonville, Minn., becomes that state's first woman elected to office. She is clerk of the state supreme court.

November 11, 1922

The Women's Overseas Service League publishes a list of 161 women known to have lost their lives in military service during WWI.

December 2, 1922

The Government Printing Office announces that it will pay men and women equally for the same work.

December 16, 1922

Florence E. Allen of Cleveland, Ohio, is appointed to the Ohio Supreme Court. She is the first woman ever to be named an associate state supreme court justice.

November 22, 1929

Testifying during a tariff debate in the U.S. senate, Ruth Peterson and Evelyn Southworth are the first women (other than members of congress) to be permitted on the senate floor.

November 24, 1930

Ruth Nichols begins the first transcontinental air flight by a woman. She leaves Mineola, Long Island, in a Lockheed-Vega, and arrives in California 7 days later.

Source: *Almanac of American Women in the 20th Century* by Judith Freeman Clark, Prentice Hall Press NY (1987).

- submitted by Lori Patterson



New Dawn
Caribbean Retreat
& Guest House

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CALENDAR, from page 12

January 15-17 ♦ Friday-Sunday
U.S. Organizing Meeting for the International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People. (Coincides with worldwide celebration of Stonewall 25.) Dallas, Texas. Info: 208 West 13th St., New York, NY 10011-7799. Call: Nicole Ramirez Murray, (619) 528-5800 and 692-1967.

January 16 ♦ Saturday
Monthly Bi Brunch. 11am at the S&S Deli, 1334 Cambridge St., Inman Sq., Cambridge. Please be early, since we can be seated only if everyone is there. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

January 21 ♦ Thursday
Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau monthly meeting, 7-9pm. All meetings are now held at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. The church is located above the Back Bay Bistro in Copley Square. Take the Green line to Copley or the Orange line to Back Bay Station. Annual elections at this month's meeting. Info: 354-0133.

January 25 ♦ Monday
BBWN Volunteer Night: BiWomen newsletter stuffing, 7pm at the new Bi Office, 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, Boston. Plan ahead—mark your calendars now!



February 6 ♦ Saturday
Swingtime Boston's Lesbian/Gay/Bi Swing & Ballroom Dance, featuring live big band music of Cheek to Cheek swing orchestra. 9pm-midnight; swing lesson at 8:15-9pm. Smoke- and alcohol-free. Casual attire. No partner necessary. Admission \$6. At the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. near Harvard Square, Cambridge. Info: (617) 522-1444.

February 11 ♦ Wednesday
BBWN General Planning Meeting. All women welcome! Please come! 7-9pm. Please call for location (617) BIS-MOVE.

Looking Ahead . . .

April 23 ♦ Friday
BiNet National Meeting in Washington, D.C.

April 24 ♦ Saturday
Day: National Bi Conference. Evening: Dance

April 25 ♦ Sunday
The 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation



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Cambridge, MA 02140**

Ongoing Events

(continued from page 11)

First and Third Thursdays:

Bisexual Issues Rap Group at the New Haven Women's Center, 614 Orange St., (corner of Bishop) New Haven, Conn. Please call to specify wheelchair access or ASL interpreting requirements. Voice (203) 776-2658, TTY and voice (203) 397-2381.

Third Thursdays: Incest Survivors Open

Discussions, 7:30-9:30pm. Free. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Fridays:

Steppin' Out on Broadway, Country/Western and swing dances for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Friends. 8pm dance lessons. 9pm-midnight: Texas two-step, Swing, and Line dancing. Smoke/alcohol-free, juice bar, DJ. No partner necessary. Admission \$5. At "On Broadway," in Powderhouse Square, 880 Broadway, Somerville. Info: (617) 623-9532.

Saturdays:

Boston Lesbian and Gay Country Dance Group. Traditional New England Contra and Dance Squares. 8-11pm, beginners lesson 7:30. First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner Centre and Eliot Sts., JP. On MBTA Green and Orange lines. \$5. Info: Janet, (617) 522-2216.



CALENDAR



December 16 and
February 11

Sunday:

**BBWN General
Planning Meetings**

All women welcome.
Help guide the
Network, meet other bi
women, maybe
volunteer for specific
jobs. For location, call
(617) BIS-MOVE.

January 11 and 25

Monday:

**BBWN Volunteer
Nights**

Jan. 11: Help do office
work. No experience
necessary! Jan. 25: Help
stuff the Feb./March
issue of BiWomen! See
old friends, make new
ones. You can read
BiWomen hot off the
press! 7-10pm. At the
Bi office, 95 Berkeley
St., Suite 613, Boston.

Ongoing Events

**First Monday
(October-May):
Support Group for White
Women Doing Anti-Racism
Work.** 6:30-8:30pm at the
Women's Theological
Center, 140 Clarendon St.
(YWCA), 6th floor, Boston.
Nearest T stops: Back Bay
(Orange) and Copley
(Green). Free, no
reservations required, but a
call to say you're coming
would be appreciated. Info:
(617) 536-8782.

(continued on page 11)

December 3 ♦ Thursday
Nicole Hollander at the Coop. One
of today's best cartoonists, Nicole
Hollander, creator of Sylvia and her
numerous cats with attitude, will be
signing copies of her new book from
1:30-2:30 at the Harvard Coop in Cambridge, MA. The
new book is titled Everything Here is Mine: Sylvia's
Unhelpful Guide to Cat Behavior. Perfect for everyone who
is owned by a cat. If you can't get there, but still want an
autographed copy, call 1-800-368-1882. If she has enough
time, she'll sign books for absentees also.



December 5 ♦ Saturday
**Regional (N.E.) meeting of the 1993 March on
Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and
Liberation**, noon-4pm, Matlovich Society Office, 72 Pine
St., Portland, Maine. Info: (617) 566-4296.

**Swingtime Boston's Lesbian/Gay/Bi Swing &
Ballroom Dance**, featuring live big band music of Cheek
to Cheek swing orchestra. 9pm-midnight; swing lesson at
8:15-9pm. Smoke- and alcohol-free. Casual attire. No
partner necessary. Admission \$6. At the Old Cambridge
Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. near Harvard Square,
Cambridge. Info: (617) 522-1444.

December 6 ♦ Sunday
Frontrunners Boston's 5th Annual Yuletide Stride - a
fundraising event for people living with AIDS. The 5 mile
road race begins at noon on Charles Street at the Boston
Common. Minimum entry fee is \$15 and obtaining pledges
is optional. Come one come all for a great race and an
ultimately nifty T-shirt. Volunteers are also needed. Drop
me a line for more info and/or an application. Chris, e-mail
address: lekutis@husc.harvard.edu

Bi Space, a friendly rap space to meet other bisexuals
and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at 95 Berkeley St.,
Suite 613, in Boston. This is about three blocks from the
Arlington St. T stop on the Green line. Parking is limited. A
\$2 donation is requested. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

December 12 ♦ Saturday
BBWN Women's Potluck Brunch. 12 noon
at Robyn's in Central Square, Cambridge.
Directions, info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

December 16 ♦ Wednesday
BBWN General Planning Meeting. All women welcome!
Please come! 7-9pm. Call for location (617) BIS-MOVE.

December 17 ♦ Thursday
**Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau monthly
meeting**, 7-9pm. All meetings are now held at the
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. The
church is located above the Back Bay Bistro in Copley
Square. Take the Green line to Copley or the Orange line
to Back Bay Station. Program TBA. Info: 354-0133.

December 19 ♦ Saturday
Monthly Bi Brunch. 11am at the
Downtown Cafe, 12 Lagrange St. in
downtown Boston, near Chinatown.
Nearest MBTA stop: Boylston on the
Red line. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.



January 3 ♦ Sunday
Bi Space, a friendly rap space to meet other bisexuals
and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at 95 Berkeley St.,
Suite 613, in Boston. This is about three blocks from the
Arlington St. T stop on the Green line. Parking is limited. A
\$2 donation is requested. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

January 5-11 ♦ Sunday-Saturday
Gender-free dance workshops. A variety of workshops
are offered during the week by Put Your Best Foot
Foreward. Info: Sara Brodsky ay (617) 522-1444.

January 12 ♦ Sunday
Swing and Ballroom Dance Winter Semester begins at
Put Your Best Foot Foreward. Info: Sara Brodsky ay (617)
522-1444.

January 8 ♦ Friday
BiWomen submissions deadline!



January 9 ♦ Saturday
**Swingtime Boston's Lesbian/Gay/Bi Swing &
Ballroom Dance**, featuring live big band music of The
Swing Legacy. 9pm-midnight; swing lesson at 8:15-9pm.
Smoke- and alcohol-free. Casual attire. No partner
necessary. Admission \$6. At the Old Cambridge Baptist
Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. near Harvard Square,
Cambridge. Info: (617) 522-1444.

January 10 ♦ Sunday
Betsy Rose benefit concert for Old Cambridge Baptist
Church's 150th Anniversary Campaign. 4pm at the Old
Cambridge Baptist Church at 1151 Mass. Ave., near
Harvard Square in Cambridge. Tickets \$13 in advance
from the church office; \$15 at the door. Tickets and info:
(617) 864-9275.

January 11 ♦ Monday
BBWN Volunteer night. Help open the mail, collect
submissions for the newsletter, respond to requests for
information, do what needs to be done. No experience
necessary. At the Bi Office, 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613,
Boston. Nearest MBTA stop is Arlington on the Green line.
Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.



January 13 ♦ Wednesday
BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm. At the
Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. A safe
place for women to connect with the bi community. Info:
(617) 354-8807.

CALENDAR continues on page 11